

Collection Tube Changes for Blood Gas Tests – Lactate and Co-Oximetry (updated 1/24/2026)

I

Introduction

(Why is this important?)

- The Critical Care Lab will begin using new GEM 7000 blood gas analyzers on January 20, 2026.
- These analyzers have new collection requirements for Lactate and Co-oximetry testing

S

Situation

(What is the current situation?)

- **IceMint:** Mint Top (Lithium Heparin) vacutainer tubes on ice are the preferred collection tube.
- **Syring:** Dry Lithium Heparin syringes are also accepted for Lactate analysis.
- For Co-oximetry analysis (including methemoglobin and carboxyhemoglobin), **only dry lithium heparin syringes are acceptable. Other specimen containers are not suitable for this testing.**

B

Background

(What is important to know about the background?)

- Dark green (sodium heparin) tubes were previously acceptable for lactate and co-oximetry testing; however, **the new platform does not support specimens collected in dark green tubes.**
- This update aligns specimen collection requirements across the Clinical Laboratory, Respiratory Therapy, and Point of Care Testing.

A

Assessment

*(What is the evaluation?)
(Could include costs, risks, etc.)*

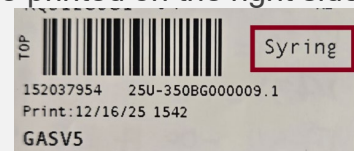
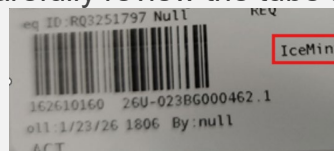
- Risk of redraws and test delays due to the incorrect tube type being sent to the lab.
- Samples for Lactate or Co-oximetry tests received in Dark Green top tubes will be sent for recollection.
- Specimens with ice are to be double bagged. Place labeled specimen in the side pocket of the biohazard bag that contains ice and then place into a second bag. Ensure both bags are tightly sealed to prevent leakage.

R

Recommendation

(What actions need to take place?)

- Carefully review the tube type printed on the right side of the label:



- Check the procedure catalog in IHIS, the Lab Test Catalog (link below), or call the lab if you're unsure. We're here to help!

