

## Diagnostic Laboratory Services

# ADD-On TESTING

**Situation:** Mint green (lithium heparin) blood tube supply levels have stabilized, and currently, the laboratory is no longer seeing supply chain shortages of these tubes.

**Background:** The utilization of mint green tubes had been temporarily halted due to nationwide supply shortages caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Add-on tests were temporarily paused due to this shortage, as specimen stability was reduced when replaced with serum tubes (red and gold), especially red top tubes.

**Assessment:** Mint green is the preferred tube in the clinical chemistry laboratory, and the specimen stability is optimal for add-on testing.

### Recommendations:

- Effectively immediately, mint green tubes should be used when indicated. Discontinue replacing red or gold serum tubes for tests that indicate mint green tubes.
- Starting September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, add-on testing for specimens collected in the preferred tube type will be possible. For most tests, these are mint green tubes. The tube type is indicated on the lab-ready label for all tests. These are also available in the LabVU test directory.

### Questions:

Please contact VUMC Lab Customer Service at 615-875-5227 (5-LABS) or visit our website: [www.labVU.com](http://www.labVU.com)