



October 20, 2004

Dear Valued Client,

Re: BD Serum Separator Tubes Interference with Laboratory Tests

Becton, Dickinson and Company (BD) have reported increased reactivity for some total T3 and total T4 tests performed on specimens collected in the BD Vacutainer® SST glass or plastic tube. Samples for these tests should be collected in a red top tube without gel separator until further notice. A total T3 or total T4 result on any patient tested since May 24, 2004 should be evaluated together with clinical findings and, if clinically indicated, should be re-collected in a red top tube without gel separator (or another brand of serum separator tube) and submitted for testing.

You should process, ship, and handle all samples as outlined in our directory of services.

We believe that this situation with the BD tubes is temporary, and apologize for any inconvenience relating to this unforeseen issue.

For additional information, see the BD website at www.bd.com/vacutainer or contact Esoterix Client Services at 800-444-9111.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Mark Stene, Ph.D.
Vice President, Laboratory Operations

Patricia Rossman, MT (ASCP) SBB, CSQE
Director of Quality