**Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust**

**National shortage of Blood Collection Tubes: Return to best practice**

Update: Blood Tube Shortage 17 September 2021

Dear Colleague,

We are writing to update you in relation to the supply disruption to blood collection tubes, further to our letter sent on 25 August. We appreciate that the supply shortage has been challenging and thank you for your efforts in managing this issue and for your continued support across the CCG.

Whist there are still constraints with the supply, the advice is that testing activity in primary and community care can resume, stocks permitting, in line with the best practice guidance.

NHS England have published new guidelines 16th Sep 2021 on Optimising blood testing in primary care whilst maintaining clinical standards (embedded and also published on the pathology website [Ordering Tests - Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust (mtw.nhs.uk)](https://www.mtw.nhs.uk/gps/pathology/pathology-service-information/ordering-tests/)).



Many thanks for your continuing support

Kind regards,

Dr Supriya Joshi Mr Mark Holland

**Consultant Chemical Pathologist General Manager Pathology**