November 2022

RE: Product Discontinuation Notification of BD Vacutainer® ESR Blood Collection Tubes and BD Seditainer™ Blood Collection Tubes

Dear Valued Customer:

This communication contains important information concerning the planned discontinuation of BD Vacutainer® ESR Blood Collection Tubes and BD Seditainer™ Blood Collection Tubes.

BD regularly reviews the products within its portfolio to ensure that our offering is reflective of customer requirements. As part of this review process, we launch new products or, make decisions to sunset products that have reached the end of their useful life. As a result of changing clinical practices, the demand for BD Vacutainer® ESR Blood Collection Tube and BD Seditainer™ Blood Collection Tubes has declined.

The erythrocyte sedimentation rate (ESR) is a non-specific, widely used test with clinical utility in helping establish the diagnosis of certain diseases, as well as monitoring the status of selected inflammatory conditions or therapeutic responses.¹

Evacuated blood collection tubes with liquid trisodium citrate additive in a standardized 4:1 blood:additive ratio (designated 4NC) for ESR determination were first introduced several decades ago. These tubes provide a convenient solution to collect, anticoagulate and dilute the blood to facilitate the measurement of ESR via the gold standard Westergren method. Over the years, however, these tubes have seen declining use in clinical laboratories for a number of reasons. First, the clinical utility of more sensitive markers of inflammation, such as the C-Reactive Protein (CRP) test has been established and incorporated into guidelines and physician / public awareness campaigns² that recommend CRP as the preferred test for confirmation of acute phase inflammation.³ Second, ESR determinations are now increasingly done with EDTA-anticoagulated whole blood, which has been endorsed by the International Council for Standardization in Haematology (ICS¹).⁴ The use of whole blood from standard EDTA blood collection tubes allows laboratories to consolidate testing in hematology on fewer tubes. Advantages of using EDTA whole blood specimens have been identified as: (i) avoidance of rejections of many samples in everyday practice; (ii) reduction in the blood volume required for hematological tests; and (iii) preservation of the red cells morphology, with maintenance of optimal blood stability.¹

For these reasons, BD will be discontinuing our line of BD Seditainer™ and BD Vacutainer® Tubes with trisodium citrate additive for ESR determinations. This discontinuation will be effective on April 1st, 2023, allowing time for laboratories to assess and implement alternatives prior to discontinuation. Please note that BD provides an array of BD Vacutainer® EDTA Blood Collection Tubes in several different tube configurations. These tubes may provide a solution for continued ESR testing in your facility, but require validation for this use according to your site’s policies and procedures prior to use.

Please refer to the table below for the catalog numbers listed of the products that will be discontinued. This discontinuation will take effect on April 1, 2023.
Catalog Numbers Planned for Discontinuation:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Catalog #</th>
<th>Catalog Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>366016</td>
<td>BD Seditainer™ Stand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>366065</td>
<td>BD Seditainer™ 0.105M 1.25ml Blood Collection Tubes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>369741</td>
<td>BD Vacutainer® ESR Blood Collection Tubes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>361555</td>
<td>ESR Bi-Level QC Material (4x8.5ml)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We understand the important role that our products play in ensuring accurate diagnostic test results for your patients as well as safety and confidence for your clinical staff. We are here to support you throughout the transition and apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. We encourage you to seek support and advice via our BD Technical Services at 1.800.631.0174 or email us at ProductComplaints@bd.com. For all other questions, please contact BD customer service at 1.844.823.5433.

Sincerely,

Attiq Amjad
Associate Director, Marketing
BD Life Sciences, Integrated Diagnostic Solutions


