**Starting late in November/Early December, SHRL will be performing two new tests in Coag.  Collection of the specimen is critical to getting accurate results! Here is some information you need to know for drawing this test:**

* **Labels will read: Ver Now Aspirin and Ver Now P1Y12.The tube type is called**
* **VerNow Blue.**
* **The “VerNow Blue” tube has a light blue cap with a White Top – it is NOT the same as a coag tube! This VerNow Blue tube is to be used ONLY for the P2Y12 or Aspirin Assay.**
* **Draw sample using a 21 gauge needle or larger.  You must draw 2ml in a clearing (discard) tube first and TWO “VerNow Blue” tubes for each patient.  You may not use any size smaller than a 21 gauge needle.  This is important!  Using a smaller gauge needle may give false results**
* **You must send the clearing tube to SHRL along with the two “VerNow Blue” tubes. Aliquot sticker gets put on the clearing tube (all go in the same bag)**
* **The tubes fill by vacuum and will fill to the arrow on the label (the tube holds 2 ml and only fills halfway). The test requires all of the blood in the tube to run. Do NOT over fill or underfill.**
* **You must invert the tubes *slowly5 times* – be careful not to invert too vigorously.**
* **You must tube immediately after collection.**

**For those of you who like to know more about the tests that you draw, here are some interesting facts:**

* **Anti-platelet medications (most commonly Aspirin and Plavix), help prevent blood platelets from aggregating together, reducing the likelihood that arteries will be blocked by a clot, leading to a heart attack.**
* **The Verify Now test measures platelet activity by how well they aggregate over time in response to anti-platelet medications like plavix.**
* **Studies show that patients do not respond equally to anti-platelet medications. Up to 1/3 of patients on anti-platelet therapy may not respond adequately.**
* **Patients that do not respond well to anti-platelet medications are at a much greater risk for a serious cardiovascular event that includes not only heart attack or stroke, but also blockage of coronary stents.**
* **Monitoring antiplatelet therapy with the “Verify Now” test may identify poor responders who would benefit from a change in therapy, such as a dose increase.**
* **The reason you need to put the clearing tube in the bag: if they get an abnormal result they will spin down the clearing tube to see if it is hemolyzed. They cannot spin down the citrate tubes.**