

Terms of reference for the Task & Finish Group

“Standardization of the colour coding for blood collection tube closures” (TFG-STCC)

Background for the project:

Proper sampling and sample additives are essential and may substantially affect the quality of the sample. Tubes and additives are identified not only in writing on the tubes but also by the colour of the tube closures. Unfortunately these colours have not been standardized, running the risk of error when tubes from one manufacturer are replaced by the tubes from another manufacturer that use different colour coding.

The background of the problem has recently been described in EFLM Opinion paper published in CCLM by Simundic AM, et al. Colour coding for blood collection tube closures – A call for harmonization. Clin Chem Lab Med. 2015;53(3):371-6.

Aim of the project:

The aim of this project is to initiate and manage a dialog between interested parties in order to achieve the world-wide harmonization of the colour coding for blood collection tube closures and labels.

Terms of reference:

- To invite all interested manufacturers to meet for a dialog and preliminary consensus about the need for the world-wide harmonization of the colour coding for blood collection tube closures and labels.
- to draft a mutually agreed operational plan of the project for the next 4-5 years
- to produce a standardized color coding proposal agreed by all major manufacturers
- to achieve the inclusion of the standardized color coding proposal into the ISO and CLSI standards
- to support and enhance the world-wide implementation of the standard.

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