

LABORATORY COLLECTION MANUAL	REVIEWING BLOOD DRAWING PRACTICES IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE BLOOD DRAW VOLUMES
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I. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:

In order that quality patient care is addressed in every area of the laboratory, this institution from time to time reevaluates and reviews the phlebotomy practices to see that minimum requirements for blood volume are met without causing problems with insufficient samples.

II. TO ACHIEVE THIS GOAL:

- Instead of using the larger lavender top tubes, we use the 3 ml. lavender tubes for routine hematology testing and Hemoglobin A₁C testing. The larger lavender top tubes are used for send-out tests.
- Instrumentation is chosen that uses micro samples such as the DPC Immulite 2000, Dimension RxL's, and Sysmex XE-5000 and XE-2100.
- Each process is looked at when teaching phlebotomists, so that different tests combined together are drawn in the smallest volume possible, instead of a tube for each part of a chemistry profile.
- Whenever appropriate and possible, an earlier sample is used for an additional test unless otherwise ordered by the physician. Staff must check with nursing about each order.
- The chemistry department always spins specimen before requesting a redraw, in order that the sample might be sufficient.
- When laboratory tests are ordered that the lab thinks might be duplication of orders or unnecessary repetition of tests, the ordering floor or physician is consulted in case the orders were indeed duplicated unintentionally. Also when orders do not seem appropriate at all, the same process is used. The physician is notified in order that requests for tests are clarified. Laboratory Staff never just assume that something doesn't need to be redrawn. We always check with the nursing unit, physician, or physicians' office staff to verify orders.

WRITTEN BY: Kay Shaw, MT(ASCP)SBB **DATE:** 6-98

APPROVED BY: Martin F. Belli, M.D. **DATE:** 6-98

REVISED BY: Kay Shaw, MT(ASCP)SBB **DATE:** 4-98, 5-99, 5-2000, 6-2004, 2-2006, 4-2010

APPROVED BY: Martin F. Belli, M.D. **DATE:** 4-98, 5-99, 5-2000, 6-2004, 2-2006, 4-2010

See original policy in the Laboratory for all documented annual reviews.

Reference:
CAP General Checklist, College of American Pathologists, Accreditation Program, 1996.1 edition, 1996, p. 10.