

LABORATORY COLLECTION MANUAL	LABORATORY POLICY REGARDING PATIENTS IN RESTRAINTS
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PURPOSE:

1. To protect patient's from harming themselves, other patients, visitors or staff.
2. To demonstrate respect for patient rights, dignity and well-being.
3. To clarify Laboratory personnel's responsibility when patients are in restraints.

DEFINITION OF RESTRAINT:

Any physical or mechanical device used to involuntarily restrict freedom of movement, physical activity, or normal access to the patients' body. Due to Joint Commission standards and comments that pertain to restraints, restraints are not used in this facility except when absolutely necessary, and then only with physicians' orders.

POLICY:

When laboratory personnel must collect a laboratory specimen from a patient who has been placed in a restraint and the specimen cannot be obtained with the restraints in place, that individual shall seek a member of the Nursing Personnel to:

1. Release the patient from the restraint.
2. Hold the patient, if needed, during the collection process.
3. Remain in the room during collection at all times.
4. Place the patient back in the restraint when the collection process is over.

At no time shall a laboratory employee release a patient from restraints.

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