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| LABORATORY COLLECTION MANUAL | TIMED STUDY SPECIMENS |
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I. INTRODUCTION:

There are many times when it is not only appropriate, but also necessary for the proper care of the patient for laboratory tests to be ordered and drawn at a specified time.

II. REQUISITIONING:

- Inpatient tests are requested through the Order Entry system and entered as a **TIMED PRIORITY** test, with a specific time entered for when the specimen is to be drawn. The labels will print on a label printer in the lab.
- For outpatient testing, the time must be written on the outpatient orders and the patient should be instructed to be at draw site enough time ahead in order that the test can be drawn at the correct time.

III. DRAWING OF SPECIMENS:

Laboratory personnel draw time studies as close to the specific time as is possible.

IV. MANY TESTS ARE SOMETIMES ORDERED AS TIMED STUDIES, BUT ONES THAT ARE MORE FREQUENTLY ORDERED AS SUCH ARE:

- ★ PTT's
- ★ Hemoglobin/Hematocrit
- ★ Drug Trough and Peak levels
- ★ Potassium
- ★ Electrolytes
- ★ Glucose
- ★ Cardiac Testing

V. APPROPRIATE ORDERING OF TIMED TESTS:

Any laboratory test can be ordered as a timed study, but if orders are not reasonable, they will be questioned and monitored by laboratory personnel.

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REVISED BY: Kay Shaw, MT(ASCP)SBB **DATE:** 4-98, 4-99, 6-2000, 6-2004, 2-2006, 6-2008

APPROVED BY: Martin F. Belli, M.D. **DATE:** 4-98, 4-99, 6-2000, 6-2004, 2-2006, 6-2008

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