

Infection Control Policies

Specimen Collection and Handling

For phlebotomy duties, gloves must be worn while drawing blood from patients, with a new pair of gloves being used for each patient. Gloves must be put on and removed in the patient's room. Gloves are never to be worn in nursing halls, lobbies, or break rooms.

Specimens collected from all patients must be contained in closed containers and properly labeled. If a specimen is sent in the pneumatic tube system, the specimen must be placed in a biohazard bag with the request form on the outside, and inserted in a red pneumatic tube insert before sending.

Standard Blood and Body Fluid Precautions will be enforced for all patients.

Blood Drawing Trays

It is the responsibility of each phlebotomist to keep his/her blood drawing tray clean.

- Disinfect all blood spills with Virex TB cleaning solution.
- Needle recapping, resheathing, or bending is prohibited. The use of "Single Use Holder/Adapter" with safety designed multiple sample needles makes this possible. Discard used assembly in biohazard containers in room if possible, otherwise in the Red Needle Containment System on the tray. When the Red Needle Containment System is 2/3 full, permanently seal container for removal by Environmental Services.
- Do not detach needles from syringes. Dispose of entire assembly in rigid container.
- Dispose of all other blood contaminated disposable equipment in red bagged BFI barrels which are sealed and removed by Environmental Services.
- Replace soiled paper towels or paper cups in trays.

Isolation Techniques on Nursing Units

- General Isolation
 - Use proper hand hygiene before contact.
 - Don gown, gloves, and mask as required according to the type of isolation.
 - Take only equipment needed into patient's room. Leave blood drawing tray outside room. If absolutely necessary to take whole tray into room, place on a clean chux.

- Dispose of needles and syringes in accordance with hospital policy in designated container in patient's room.
- Wipe off the outside of blood specimens with alcohol pad.
- Dispose of gloves and use proper hand hygiene after patient contact.

- Protective Isolation

- Use proper hand hygiene before contact.
- Don gown, gloves, and mask.
- Take only equipment needed into patient's room. Leave blood drawing tray outside room. If absolutely necessary to take whole tray into room, place on a clean chux.
- Dispose of needles and syringes in accordance with hospital policy in designated container in patient's room.
- Wipe off the outside of blood specimens with alcohol pad.
- Dispose of gloves and use proper hand hygiene after patient contact.
- No person should enter Protective Isolation having any symptoms of upper respiratory infection (URI), diarrhea, or skin infection. Report to supervisor to have another person perform procedure, if applicable.

References

1. Infection Control Committee. "Infection Control for the Laboratory." February 1991, pp 2, 4, 5
2. Hand Hygiene, January 2009