



DATE: 2/4/2019
TO: All MON & CNE's & all Nursing Staff
FROM: Dr. Andrew Lyon, Biochemistry, Lab Medicine and Pathology – Saskatoon
Diane Haugrud, Biochemistry, Lab Medicine and Pathology – Saskatoon
RE: Laboratory Phlebotomists Unable to Obtain a Blood Specimen Process

It has come to our attention that nursing staff are not aware of the laboratory's policy related to when a 'Phlebotomist is Unable to Obtain a Blood Specimen.' This policy has been in place for many years with minor edits.

Below is the process the laboratory phlebotomists will follow:

1. Phlebotomist will attempt collection 2 times; if not successful
2. A second Phlebotomist will attempt collection 2 times; if not successful
3. Phlebotomy staff will verbally communicate to the Health Care Worker that another specimen cannot be obtained and that another attempt will not be made for 12 hours (previously was 24 hours).
4. Phlebotomist shall ask for the first initial & last name of the Health Care Worker and shall enter this information into the Laboratory Information System (LIS) along with the date and time of notification.
5. The Phlebotomist will enter a comment into the LIS indicating that they were unable to obtain a specimen and will enter the tests that they were unable to collect.
6. The Health Care Worker will inform the clinician and decide on the next steps (ie: arterial poke, line insertion, etc).

It is our expectation that Nursing staff will comply with the information required-provide first initial & last name. More importantly it is expected that when a Phlebotomist is unable to obtain a blood specimen that Nursing staff share this information with the patient's physician to ensure continuum of care is not compromised.

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