

SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS FOR PHLEBOTOMY

POLICY:

- ✓ All patient specimens will be handled as potentially infectious. Employees will always wear gloves - there are no exceptions. No specimen will be considered a higher risk than another.
 - ✓ When possible - blood will be collected using vacuum tube(s) rather than syringe to avoid unnecessary transferral of specimen.
 - ✓ The employer and staff will be determined by evaluation if the use of safety needles and/or safety holders will reduce number of needle stick injuries among the staff. Based on this evaluation safety needles will be purchased and used. Training will be provided on how to use.
 - ✓ Needles will not be bent, broken, recapped or removed from holder unless the employer demonstrates that no alternative is feasible..
 - ✓ If vacuum tubes are filled from a syringe, use the internal vacuum only.
 - ✓ Tourniquets will be disposable or disinfected after use if visible soiled.
 - ✓ All specimens must be transported to the lab or stored in the lab will be placed in a secondary container (eg. phlebotomy tray, test tube rack, plastic bag) to minimize accidental contamination, spillage or breakage. All secondary containers will be labeled with a biohazard label and disinfected regularly.
 - ✓ **On June 12, 2002 OSHA released a position on the removal of contaminated needles from blood tube holders. The release stated (quote), "Removing contaminated needles and reusing blood tube holders can expose workers to multiple hazards. We (OSHA) want to make it very clear that this practice is prohibited in order to protect workers from being exposed to contaminated needles." (document can be accessed on OSHA web site)**
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