Policy Title: Blood Samples For Inpatient Coagulation Studies

Effective Date: February, 2011
Policy Number: 40

Review Date: Department Nursing Gen / IV Maintenance – BRMC

Submitted by: Daryl Steward, Pharm.D.
Christine Miller, RN, 4 West

General:
1. Peripheral site lab draws are preferred whenever continuous infusions of anticoagulation medications (e.g. heparin, argatroban, etc.) are being used.
2. If an unused ‘2nd I.V. site’ is available, it may be used in place of a peripheral site.
3. Blood specimens from an Arterial Line (per Policy 26) may be used in place of a peripheral site.
4. Physician orders are required specifically for anticoagulation studies when samples are drawn from a Central Line or PICC line.
5. Blood samples for scheduled PTTs should be sent directly to the laboratory for analysis.
6. Results of all scheduled PTTs will be reported within 30 minutes due to the anticoagulants short half-life (providing the patient is available for the lab draws).

Peripheral collection site:
1. Draw in the opposite extremity from the continuous infusion.
2. If the opposite extremity is not an option (i.e. AV shunt, post mastectomy, etc.), a sample may be drawn from a site distal to the infusion.
3. Place tourniquet below I.V site.
4. Draw required sample amount.
5. If no distal site to infusion is available, contact RN to stop infusion for three (3) minutes and then draw above site per Lab Venous Puncture procedure. Restart infusion immediately after sample is drawn.
6. Send scheduled PTT samples directly to the laboratory for analysis.

Central line collection:
**NOTE: If a peripheral venipuncture is contraindicated due to the patient’s clinical condition (i.e. pancytopenia, thrombocytopenia or no peripheral access is possible) or due to a physician’s or patient’s request, blood specimens may be drawn from the central venous catheter with a physician’s order. EXCEPTION: do not draw coagulation labs through large bore dialysis catheter of a patient receiving IV heparin infusion therapy.

The general procedure for drawing coagulation studies from central lines includes the following steps:
1. Stop all fluids and medications infusing through the central venous catheter just prior to lab draw.
2. Select the port for sampling. Do not draw specimen from the port where anticoagulant is infusing.
3. Flush the central venous catheter lumens/ports with 10 ml. normal saline and clamp lumens.
4. Draw and discard a 10 ml. waste from selected lumen/port
5. Draw required sample amount.
6. Note on the lab form that the specimen has been drawn from the central venous catheter.
7. Flush port with 10 ml. normal saline.
8. Send scheduled PTT samples directly to the laboratory for analysis.

Questionable technical results will be investigated by lab staff.

Recommended for approval by Pharmacy and Therapeutics 11/12/10

Approvals:

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<tr>
<td>Lil Tacey, RN</td>
<td>Chairperson, Nursing Practice Council</td>
<td>Feb. 2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>June Eastman</td>
<td>Director, Laboratory</td>
<td>Feb 2011</td>
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