



Priority Procedure Times

The purpose of blood collections procedure is to ensure that all specimens are collected and processed in accordance with the patient's therapy and condition.

Traumas, codes, and PRT's (Patient Response Team) require immediate response by phlebotomy team. The times for Phlebotomy response varies based on need.

Order and time

- **STAT:** 10 minutes or less
- **Emergency department:** All ED orders are considered STAT. Please call the phlebotomy STAT line at **4975** for immediate service.
- **OPS/PACU:** All OPS and PACU orders are considered STAT. Please call the surgery STAT line at **4953**.
- **ASAP:** One hour or less.
- **Timed:** Peak medication levels should be drawn within 5 minutes of the time the level is ordered. All other timed specimens should be drawn within 15 minutes of the time ordered.
- **Routine:** Four hours or less, these specimens are coordinated to accommodate STAT, ASAP and timed orders.
- **Trauma and Code:** Immediate response



Tips to ensure proper collection time:

- All orders have to be in EPIC before the 30 minute mark in order for them to appear on the next hourly collection list.
- Always double check that tests are ordered as "lab collect" if you intend for Lab to collect the specimen. Orders placed as "nurse to collect" do not print for the lab to see.
- If the lab is due at a specific time, enter it as a "timed" draw. You must enter a time before you release the order from EPIC.



To avoid rejected specimens and redraws, please:

- Mix tubes immediately upon filling.
- For capillary sticks, mix intermittently while filling the micro lavender tubes.
- For syringe draws, fill tubes immediately with a transfer device and mix. Blood left in syringe for any length of time will begin to clot.
- Blue top tubes for coagulation tests must be filled to the line. Short samples will be QNS (Quantity Not Sufficient) and called for a redraw. Overfilling (above line) will lead to an unacceptable sample.

- For line draw collections, the line must be cleared of fluid prior to collecting the sample for lab tests or the results will be affected.
- Specimens must be properly labeled with at least two identifiers (patient's name, MR#, Accession #, DOB), and the tech code, date, time of collection and how it was drawn (CAP (for capillary) or VE (for venous)).
- Blood bank samples must also have a final check code in addition to all of the above.

