

**TITLE:** Coagulation Specimen Collection (anti-Xa and aPTT) for Patients on Heparin Infusions

**LOCATION:** System

**AUDIENCE:** All adult hospital units

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Current practice reinforcement

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**RATIONALE:** To avoid erroneous laboratory results

### Correct Practice

Site of sample	Guideline for pausing heparin infusion and collecting specimen
Peripheral venipuncture from extremity not infusing heparin (preferred)	Not required
Arterial line	Not required
Central venous catheter (CVC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pause for 2 minutes prior to obtaining sample</li> <li>• Avoid collecting from lumen infusing heparin</li> <li>• Flush collection line with 10 mL saline and obtain sample using push-pull method (or withdraw and discard, if needed)</li> </ul>
Peripherally inserted central catheter (PICC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pause for 2 minutes prior to obtaining sample</li> <li>• Flush line infusing heparin with 10 mL saline before collecting from another lumen</li> <li>• Avoid collecting from lumen infusing heparin</li> <li>• Flush collection line with 10 mL saline and obtain sample using push-pull method (or withdraw and discard, if needed)</li> </ul>
Peripheral venipuncture from extremity infusing heparin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pause for 2 minutes prior to obtaining sample</li> <li>• Collection below IV site is preferred: Place tourniquet below the IV site and complete the draw</li> <li>• Collection above IV site only if no alternative: Collect a 5 mL discard tube prior to collection</li> </ul>
Peripheral IV (avoid lumen infusing heparin, if possible)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pause for 2 minutes prior to obtaining sample if collecting from same extremity as heparin infusion</li> <li>• Collection from lumen infusing heparin only if no alternative: Ensure line is adequately flushed</li> <li>• Withdraw and discard 5 mL of blood before collecting specimen (or use push-pull, if appropriate)</li> </ul>

- Please notify pharmacy if you suspect heparin contamination or if heparin infusion is paused  $\geq 10$  minutes
- Refer to the various site of sample-specific *Blood Specimen Collection* skills In Elsevier Clinical Skills for additional information.