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Veterans Health Administration

**Title: BLUE ALERT IDENTIFICATION Document No. POC 9 113 Rev. No. 2.1**

**POC 9 113 BLUE ALERT IDENTIFICATION**

Copy of version 2.1 (approved and current)

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**Approval and Periodic Review Signatures**

Type	Description	Date	Version	Performed By	Notes
Periodic review	Ancillary Testing Coordinator	5/16/2022	2.1	Kimberly Ballard	
Approval	Lab Director	6/2/2020	2.0	Eugene Pearlman	
Approval Captured outside MediaLab	Lab Director	6/27/2019	1.0	Dr. Eugene Pearlman	Recorded on 11/12/2019 by Kimberly Ballard when document added to MediaLab
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Approvals and periodic reviews that occurred before this document was added to the MediaLab Document Control system may not be listed.

**Version History**

Version	Status	Type	Date Added	Date Effective	Date Retired
2.1	Approved and Current	Minor revision	11/9/2020	1/25/2021	Indefinite
2.0	Retired	Major revision	4/9/2020	6/2/2020	1/25/2021

**1/25/2021**



# BLUE ALERT IDENTIFICATION

POC 09 113

Memphis VA Medical Center  
Memphis, TN 38104

**Service Line(s):**  
Pathology and Laboratory Medicine  
Service

**Signatory Authority:**  
Chief, Pathology and Laboratory  
Medicine Service

**Effective Date:**  
June 10, 2020

**Responsible Owner:**  
Ancillary Testing

**Recertification Date:**  
June 30, 2025

## 1. PURPOSE AND AUTHORITY

- a. The purpose of this standard operating procedure (SOP) is to establish a procedure for those individuals who cannot be immediately positively identified in a “Blue Alert” situation: patients, visitors, employees, etc. for emergent point of care testing.
- b. This SOP sets forth mandatory procedures and processes to ensure compliance with VA/VHA Directive 1106.01, Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Service (P&LMS) Procedures, January 29, 2016, Joint Commission, and College of American Pathology.

## 2. PROCEDURES

- a. The following procedure is to be used as patient identification using any ancillary testing instruments.
  - (1) Determine the appropriate test to be performed.
  - (2) Collect sample as appropriate to the test to be performed.
  - (3) Enter 9 zeros OR 9 nines as the patient identification (000000000 or 999999999).
  - (4) Immediately after the emergency, an encrypted e-mail must be sent to Ancillary Testing Coordinator/Specialist by the person who performed the test stating:
    - (a) That there was a Blue Alert with 000000000 or 999999999 identifiers.
    - (b) The name of the test performed with time and date.
    - (c) The correct identification including full name and full social security number.
    - (d) The status that this was a patient, visitor, employee, etc.



- (5) The Ancillary Testing Specialist/ Coordinator will email the testing staff member along with nursing supervisor if that staff member does not submit information within 24 hours of testing.
- (6) Ancillary Testing personnel will correct the identification to be placed in the patient record or document that the Blue Alert testing was on a visitor.
- (7) The identifier 000000000 and 999999999 is ONLY to be used for Blue Alert or other emergent situations where a patient identification is not readily accessed in order to extend care or treatment.
- (8) The 000000000 and 999999999 are flagged patient identifiers in the RALS information management system which alerts the Ancillary Testing Coordinator/Specialist of possible Blue Alert testing.

### 3. ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES

- a. **Chief of P&LMS.** Overall responsible for ensuring the overall standardization of this SOP.
- b. **Ancillary Testing Coordinator (ATC).** Responsible for review of this SOP before submission to Laboratory Director for accuracy
  - (1) Ensure all employees are educated on and comply with this policy.
  - (2) Ensure a standardized approach to hand off communication is developed and implemented for their services as well as interactions with other services.
- c. **Ancillary Testing Specialist (ATS).** Validation of patient identification.
  - (1) Monitoring patients and incident reports of “Blue Alerts”
  - (2)
- d. **All other staff members.** Responsible for adhering to institutional and laboratory safety policies while performing procedures.
  - (1) Performing tests as indicated in this SOP.

### 4. DEFINITIONS

- a. **Blue Alert** Emergent event where assigned staff must treat, care for, and stabilize a patient having a healthcare crisis.
- b. **Ancillary testing** Laboratory testing performed at the location of the patient also known as point of care.

### 5. REFERENCES



- a. VHA Directive 1106.1, Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Service (P&LMS) Procedures, January 29, 2016, [http://vaww.lab.med.va.gov/References\\_Directives\\_and\\_Regulations\\_P.asp](http://vaww.lab.med.va.gov/References_Directives_and_Regulations_P.asp)
- b. Sentinel Alert Event. Issue 58, September 12, 2017. The Joint Commission. [www.jointcommission.org](http://www.jointcommission.org)
- c. Provision of Care, Treatment, and Services. PC.02.02.01. The Joint Commission. [www.jointcommission.org](http://www.jointcommission.org)

**6. REVIEW**

This SOP will be reviewed at least every 2 years, when there are changes to the government document that need to be made and any regulatory requirement for frequent review.

**7. RECERTIFICATION**

This SOP is scheduled for recertification on or before the last working day of June 2025. In the event of contradiction with national policy, the national policy supersedes and controls.

**8. SIGNATORY AUTHORITY**

Dr. Eugene Pearlman  
Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Service, Chief  
Date Approved: June 10, 2020

**NOTE:** *The signature remains valid until rescinded by an appropriate administrative action.*

**DISTRIBUTION:** This SOP is available in Media Lab:  
[https://www.medialab.com/lms/admin/ad\\_tab\\_doc\\_frameset.aspx?leftdest=todo&oid=39106449&o=691e25a40e2e478b7ca4976a6b86b7a9&docid=1304491&dochash=8f6ac47f2a49bfdd7580b8926a2ef792&revisionid=2188347&revhash=3ea36678464da1af6d30269f3e62e0da](https://www.medialab.com/lms/admin/ad_tab_doc_frameset.aspx?leftdest=todo&oid=39106449&o=691e25a40e2e478b7ca4976a6b86b7a9&docid=1304491&dochash=8f6ac47f2a49bfdd7580b8926a2ef792&revisionid=2188347&revhash=3ea36678464da1af6d30269f3e62e0da)