

**Lab Alert—Changes to the Tourniquet Program**

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| **Effective Date:** | Monday, June 5, 2023 |
| **Purpose:** | We are revising the process used to ensure tourniquets are not left on patient arms. |
| **Test Affected:** | All blood specimens collected at WOMC  Exclusions = Blood drawn from patients outside of WOMC such as those drawn by Mobile Med, ACS, and Home Health draws. |
| **Updated Process:** | **Phlebotomy:**   1. Whenever possible, place the tourniquet over the sleeve of the patient’s gown. This will prevent the gown from covering the tourniquet and help ensure the tourniquet is removed following venipuncture. 2. Remove the tourniquet from the patient’s arm and place it in the biohazard bag with specimens. 3. Nursing staff that collect blood from lines and do not use tourniquets will place a yellow dot sticker on the biohazard bag to indicate no tourniquet was used during collection. 4. Do not answer your vocera when you are in a patient room.   **Processing:**   1. Verify that there is a tourniquet in the biohazard bag with all blood specimens. 2. If there is no tourniquet, look for the yellow, circle sticker in the upper left corner of the biohazard bag. 3. If there is no tourniquet and no yellow dot sticker,    1. Contact the Charge RN of the unit and ask them to verify that the tourniquet has been removed from the patient arm.    2. Place a patient label on the “Tourniquet Verification Pilot Program” log and document the name of the person notified, date/time of notification, and tech code. |
| **This process and the safety of our patients depends upon processing to enforce this policy. Hospital staff will be doing spot checks to ensure the processors are holding the line and notifying the charge RN every time a tourniquet/yellow dot is missing. This is a critical process.** | |