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| Saratoga Hospital Laboratory  211 Church Street, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866 | Saratoga Hospital Lab-Wilton  3040 Route 50 North, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866 |

**Phlebotomy Adverse Reaction Procedure**

**Purpose:**

To provide phlebotomy staff with instruction for patients who are experiencing adverse reactions related to phlebotomy.

**Principle:**

Timely attention by specimen collection personnel to adverse reactions relating to blood collection is important to reduce compromises to a patient’s health.

**Scope:**

This procedure applies to all phlebotomy staff members working for the Saratoga Hospital Laboratory, Main Lab location.

Procedure:

For any major injuries including vomiting, and seizures at the Saratoga Hospital, initiate the In-House Medical Emergency Policy and call a Code Green. When major injuries occur during a homedraw, or at a patient service center, call emergency services.

***Vasovagal Reaction***

Vasovagal reactions are an involuntary nervous system response that causes the heart to slow down, and leg vessels to dilate. As a result the heart puts out less blood causing the blood pressure to drop. The decreased oxygen flow to the brain causes a fainting episode. Ill patients are more likely to have this type of reaction.

1. In the event that a patient feels faint or faints, stop the specimen collection immediately.
2. If the patient is in a multimed chair, lay the patient back so they will not fall out of the chair. If the patient is moving towards the floor, gently help the patient to the floor.
3. Verbally call for assistance.
4. Initiate the In-House Medical Emergency Policy and call a Code Green or call emergency services.

***Hematoma***

A swelling or mass of blood (often clotted) that can be caused by leaking blood from a blood vessel during or following a blood draw. It is important that specimens are not collected in the area of the hematoma, because inaccurate results may be obtained due to the contamination of tissue fluid and altered blood contained in the hematoma.

1. As soon as a hematoma is noticed remove the tourniquet, and the needle. Apply pressure at the site for a minimum of 3 minutes.
2. Check the site to see of the hematoma has stopped forming.
3. Put a bandage or gauze with tape on the site. Instruct the patient to keep the bandage on for a minimum of a half hour.

***Pain***

When pain during a blood draw occurs, it is typically the result of a nerve being pierced by a needle. The patient will complain of an electric shock going up their arm.

1. If the patient complains of pain, or the phlebotomist notices the patient is in pain, **immediately** remove the needle from the patient’s arm, and put pressure on the site.
2. Ask the patient if they are still feeling pain.
   1. If the pain has stopped, redraw the patient. .
   2. If the patient is still experiencing numbness, weakness, or shocking sensations at the site, proceed as instructed in the Nerve Damage section of this procedure.

***Nerve Damage***

If a patient is experiencing numbness, weakness, or shocking sensations at a venipuncture site at the time of their blood draw or if the patient contacts the laboratory complaining of these symptoms, the patient will need to be seen by a provider.

1. Offer the patient services at Wilton Medical Arts Urgent Care, the Saratoga Hospital Emergency Department, or their own primary care provider.

***Re-Bleed***

Patients with liver disease, vascular disease, clotting disorders, as well as those that are on certain medications may experience a complication that will slow the clotting causing bleeding to continue post specimen collection. Re-bleeds often occur during hot weather as veins dilate to cool the body.

1. Verify bleeding has stopped after every blood draw.
2. Continue to apply pressure until the bleeding has stopped. The site should stop bleeding if pressure has been kept on the wound for 5 minutes.
   1. If bleeding continues, initiate the In-House Medical Emergency Policy and call a Code Green.
   2. If bleeding stops instruct the patient to do the following to prevent a re-bleed.
      1. Keep the bandage in place for 1 hour.
      2. Instruct the patient not to lift objects over 5 lbs for 1 hour.

***Phlebitis***

Phlebitis is the inflammation of a vein.

1. Superficial phlebitis affects veins on the skin surface. The patient may notify the laboratory that they are experiencing an itchy sensation, or the venipuncture site itself is swollen.
   1. Instruct the patient to see their primary care provider.
2. Deep Vein Thrombosis affects the larger blood vessels of the leg, but may occur in the arm. This is a very serious condition. The patient must seek medical attention immediately.
   1. Instruct the patient to see their primary care provider.

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| Date of Origin: | 01/15/15 |  | Prepared By: | Teri Baldwin |
| **Date Placed in Service:** | |  |  | |

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