Saratoga Hospital Laboratory

211 Church Street, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

**Phlebotomy Venous Blood Gas (VBG) Collection Procedure**

**Purpose:**

To provide phlebotomy staff with instruction for collecting venous blood gas specimens, to be tested by the Respiratory Department.

**Principle:**

Timely attention for specimen collection, as well as Respiratory Department notification of Lactate collection, is critical for the diagnosis and treatment of sepsis. Due to the involvement of two separate departments, it is important to reduce operational challenges that could result in compromised results, in addition to increased turnaround time.

**Scope:**

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

Procedure for Collection:

1. Provider will order a Sepsis Order Set.
2. Phlebotomy will get a notification on the Mobilab, for a VBG Draw.

*Note: This order could be routine, timed, stat, or urgent. The Saratoga Hospital identified URGENT draws as STAT.*

1. The phlebotomist will collect the specimen.

*Note: Specimen requirements for a VBG Draw are a Sodium (NA) Heparin tube on ice.*

1. 2 labels will print for the VBG Draw.
   1. The label with the barcode goes on the specimen.
   2. The label without the barcode gets put in a STAT specimen bag, by itself, and tubed to Lab Receiving.

*Note: See Lab Receiving section in this procedure for additional instructions.*

1. Deliver the Lactate specimen to the correct Respiratory Department testing location.
   1. For specimens collected in the ED deliver specimen to the respiratory testing site in the ED LAB for testing.
   2. For specimens collected in ALL OTHER LOCATIONS deliver specimens to the respiratory testing site in the ICU for testing.

Procedure for Lab Receiving:

1. Lactate collecting phlebotomist will tube the lactate label without a barcode to Lab Receiving, by itself, in a STAT specimen bag.
2. Receiver will note the patient location on the label. The patient location indicates which respiratory testing site the specimen will be located in.
   1. For specimens collected in the ED deliver specimen to the respiratory testing site in the ED LAB for testing.
   2. For specimens collected in ALL OTHER LOCATIONS deliver specimens to the respiratory testing site in the ICU for testing.
3. The Receiver will call the Respiratory Tech at 6112 to let them know they have a Lactate specimen to be tested, and the respiratory testing location the collecting phlebotomist is to deliver the lactate.
4. The Receiver will receive the specimen.

Procedural Notes:

* The Lactate specimen must be tested within 20 minutes after collection.
  + There must be NO DELAY in getting the specimen to the respiratory testing site.
  + There must be NO DELAY in notifying the Respiratory Therapist that there is a specimen to be tested.

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

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|  | Phlebotomy Supervisor  Teri Baldwin |  | Date |  | Saratoga Hospital Laboratory Medical Director  William E. Field II, MD |  | Date |
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|  | Laboratory Administrative Director  Richard Vandell |  | Date |  |  |  |  |