Cell Saver Instructions

The cell saver may be used on patients in the operating room undergoing cardiac surgery. The cell saver allows the recycling of the patient’s red blood cells during the procedure. Cell saver samples are sent for QC purposes.

When cell saver samples arrive in the lab, they are not ordered in CHL or Sunquest. Specimen processing should deliver the lavender tube to Hematology and the green to Chemistry to perform testing offline.

Use a downtime label for a suitable container ID to run samples without crashing the system (FATAL M errors).

Hematology:

1. Check the sample for clots and mix well
2. Run the CBC only (the OR is only concerned with the Hgb, Hct, and PLT counts
3. The platelet count cannot be verified. The expected results are High H&H values with a low platelet count. Ignore all other flags on the sample
4. Call results to the OR
5. File printout with the worksheets for review and indicate Cell Saver and the person notified of the results

Chemistry:

1. Manually program an Albumin on cell saver samples. Some physicians may also request a potassium. Pay attention to the request and run the tests that are ordered.
2. Call results to OR when available