**TITLE: Venous Specimen Draws for Respiratory Department**

**Principle:** To provide guidance on how to draw venous specimens for the respiratory department when performing phlebotomy procedure for lab also and how to handle respiratory specimens that may accidentally be sent the lab.

**Personnel:** Phlebotomists and Medical Technologists

**Procedure:**

1. **Drawing Respiratory Specimens**
2. If asked to draw a venous sample for the tests listed below, please do so. The tests involved are listed below.
   1. CAION – Ionized Calcium Venous
   2. VHBCO – Carboxyhemoglobin Venous Soft label will say Syringe
   3. VBG – Venous Blood Gases Soft label will say Syringe
3. Specimens are drawn in a short dark green Lithium Heparin tube with no gel.
4. Label the specimen with the LIS Label.
5. Call respiratory at extension 2415 or 4768 to alert them you have drawn the specimen and are sending a venous respiratory specimen to the Neuroscience ICU.
6. Use the pneumatic tube and send the specimen to Neuroscience ICU station.
7. **Receiving Respiratory Specimens:**
8. All respiratory specimens are performed by respiratory personnel in the Emergency Department (ED) or Neuroscience ICU. Specimens should be sent to these locations. Occasionally a specimen may accidentally be sent to the lab instead.
9. If a specimen is received from the ED:
   1. Call the ED and notify them that lab received a dark green respiratory tube and that you are tubing the specimen back to the ED.
   2. Send the specimen back to the ED using the pneumatic tube system.
10. If a specimen is received from an inpatient unit (MS1, MS2, ICA, ONP, PMR, ICU):
    1. Contact respiratory at extension 2415 or 4768 to alert them that lab has received a respiratory specimen and you will be tubing it to the Neuroscience ICU.
    2. Send the specimen to the Neuroscience ICU using the pneumatic tube station.