Name of Policy: Minimizing Large Volume Blood Draws
Policy Number: 3364-107-319
Department: Pathology-Laboratory
Approving Officer: Chief Operating Officer-UTMC
Responsible Agent: Director, Clinical Pathology
Administrative Director, Lab
Scope: Pathology-Laboratory

New policy proposal
Minor/technical revision of existing policy
X Reaffirmation of existing policy

(A) Policy Statement

Laboratory will take steps to reduce unnecessary large volume blood draws whenever possible.

(B) Purpose of Policy

Blood losses from phlebotomy may be a cause of anemia and increase transfusion needs. Other consequences include greater risk of complications during collection for health care workers and patients, increased amounts of hazardous waste, and greater cost.

(C) Procedure

1. Laboratory has evaluated and uses low volume draw vacutainer tubes. These tubes range from 1.8 ml – 5.0 ml.
2. Patients in the Intensive Care Units use low volume blue and lavender top tubes unless volume of blood needed for testing is prohibitive.
3. Phlebotomy staff review and combine orders on all inpatients whenever possible.
4. Laboratory Information System has programming in place to cancel duplicate orders as established by the medical director.
5. Laboratory utilization is reviewed on a consistent basis and actions are taken as necessary.

Approved by:

/s/               01/05/2023
Amira Gohara, M.D.
Professor
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/s/               01/10/2023
Christine Stesney-Ridenour
Chief Operating Officer-UTMC
Review/Revision Completed by:
Heather Byrd – Administrative Director - Lab

Review/Revision Date:
5/1/2011
4/1/2013
3/1/2017
1/22/2019
1/4/2021
1/04/2023

Next Review Date: 1/4/2025

Policies Superseded by This Policy: None