



## Serum Drug Level Monitoring Collection Guideline

Refer to the following chart and information to assure accurate specimen collection and timing.

<b>DRUG</b>	<b>TROUGH LEVEL</b>	<b>PEAK LEVEL</b>
Gentamicin	½ hour before dose	½ hour after end of infusion
Tobramycin	½ hour before dose	½ hour after end of infusion
Amikacin	½ hour before dose	½ hour after end of infusion
Vancomycin	½ hour before dose	½ hour after end of infusion

Occasionally, a Peak level is ordered to be drawn 1 hr. after the end of the infusion and then 8, 12, or 24 hours later. The physician may also order a random Gentamicin or random Tobramycin.

**DIGOXIN**: Digoxin levels should be drawn at least 10 hours after an oral dose, or 8 hours after an IV dose. This drug has a long distribution phase. If levels are drawn too soon after a dose is given, the level will be falsely elevated.

Other things to consider when collecting drug level specimens:

- a) Do not draw any specimens above an IV infusion area.
- b) Transport specimen(s) to the laboratory ASAP. Samples may be time and temperature dependent.
- c) If collecting a PEAK level and it can't be drawn at the correct time, it is recommended to draw the specimen a little later (i.e., 45 - 60 minutes after end of infusion), rather than too early. Always document the exact time the specimen was collected.

Nursing staff should always order drug levels as "Timed" draws to ensure that the phlebotomist draws the specimen at the appropriate time.

