

M E M O R A N D U M

To: Patient Care Locations Collecting Blood Specimens

Date: November 11, 2016

Subject: “Take the Time to Clear the Line” & “Order of Draw”– Educational Tools to reduce recollects.

The Clinical Laboratory has recognized a trend related to under-filled specimen collections that are requiring patient recollections, which delay patient care. After having discussions with multiple nursing units, it has been determined that many of the reported under-filled collections occurred because a waste tube was not used in conjunction with the butterfly collection set. If a waste tube is not used to clear the air from the tubing of the butterfly, then the specimen container will not fill appropriately, which can result in a patient recollection. This is especially important when collecting coagulation specimens that require the blue top container to be filled to the fill line. If the blue top is not filled appropriately, it will be rejected because the blood to anticoagulant ratio in the tube is unsatisfactory, which means the results would not be accurate to care for and treat the patient.

When using a butterfly for a venipuncture, a waste tube (blue top container) should be collected first in the order of draw to remove the air from the tubing to prevent under-filled tubes and recollections, which delay patient care.

Please distribute and/or post the attached educational tools for all staff that collects blood specimens.

Thank you for your commitment to reduce patient recollects, as it will better serve our valued client, our patients!

UKHealthCare Clinical Laboratory Leadership