Capital Health

MEMORANDUM

To: Healthcare providers performing venipuncture

From: Dr. J.G. Heathcote, District Chief, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
             Anita Muise, District Manager, Shared Services

Date: October 15, 2013

Subject: **Revised Policy and Procedure CC 85-079 Venipuncture for Blood Specimen Collection**

CC 85-079 Venipuncture for Blood Specimen Collection has been revised to establish a single policy and procedure for all Capital Health care providers performing venipuncture and is now published and available on the Capital Health policy webpage. The requirement to have a single organizational venipuncture policy was identified during the 2010 survey by Accreditation Canada.

 Capital Health patient safety reports show a significant number of events associated with specimen collection, therefore revisions have been made to address issues that arise from improper collection practices.

The key revisions include:
- Single policy for all healthcare professionals;
- Single procedure for venipuncture, including collections for blood transfusion and blood culture
- (CC 85-012 Blood Transfusion Specimen collection has been deleted);
- Definition of phlebotomist as any care provider performing venipuncture;
- A limit of two attempts at venipuncture on a patient by a phlebotomist;
- Skin preparation prior to collection;
- Clarification on when venipuncture is NOT to be performed;
- **Introduction of Best Practice: New post labeling requirement referred to as "The Final Check";**
- Updated Learning Module to be reviewed during initial assessment of competency;
- Recommendation for annual competency evaluation by observation.

The policy review process included stakeholder feedback. (June 2013) Many of the suggested changes and additions were incorporated into this final document. Thank you to Professional Practice and all those who participated in this process and provided valuable feedback.

If you have questions related to this policy and procedure please contact
DPLMCustomerService@cdha.nshealth.ca

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