

**OHACKETTSTOWN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER
LABORATORY POLICY MANUAL**

TPA PATIENT DRAWS

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PURPOSE

To define policy for phlebotomy on TPA patients when their lines are not working and cannot be used for obtaining blood samples.

POLICY

It is acceptable to draw blood as long as the tourniquet used is removed as soon as possible and pressure is held on the puncture site for at least ten minutes. It is very important to the patient's safety that this protocol be followed exactly as described. New venous lines should be promptly installed by Nursing to replace any malfunctioning ones so any requests should be temporary in nature.

NOTE: Specimens for coagulation studies are acceptable from TPA patients drawn from heparin locks, provided that proper protocol for draw is followed by nursing personnel.