



Medical Center

Clinical Laboratories

Clinical Laboratories Manual

PROCEDURE REVIEW COVER SHEET

Procedure Title: **ADVERSE PATIENT REACTION** **ver. 1.0**
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In Use Date: _____ Discontinued Date _____

ACTION: Reviewed or Revised/Approved

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ADVERSE PATIENT REACTION

PURPOSE:

Some patients react negatively to the sight of blood or to the process of blood drawing. These reactions can result in fainting, seizures, or even more severe medical reactions. Staff performing phlebotomy must be trained to recognize and interact appropriately when a patient has an adverse reaction to phlebotomy.

SCOPE:

This procedure will be used by Clinical Laboratory staff, who perform phlebotomy at any of the Parnassus or Mount Zion phlebotomy sites.

PROCEDURE:

A. Minor adverse reactions e.g. dizziness, nausea

1. Make the patient as comfortable as possible
2. Instruct the patient to breathe deeply and slowly
3. Instruct the patient to lean forward and place his head down between his **or her** knees
4. Offer water, juice or snacks – often these symptoms are related to low blood sugar or fasting
 - a. **If the patient is having a glucose tolerance test at the time of the reaction stop the procedure and contact the referring physician or a pathologist**

B. Brief fainting episodes (loss of consciousness)

1. Remove needle and tourniquet, if performing phlebotomy
2. Call for assistance
3. Position the chair to most flat position possible (with assistance)
4. Remain with the patient while they are unconscious
5. If patient does not recover consciousness in 5-10 seconds, consider episode to be major event and follow guidelines below
6. When the patient recovers consciousness, follow minor adverse reaction guidelines above

C. Major adverse reactions e.g. severe bleeding, seizures (jerky movements with loss of consciousness) and/or cardiac arrest (severe chest pains)

1. Activate emergency response team immediately
 - a. **ACC:** Send ACC staff to notify SAC clinic, 1st floor lobby of ACC building. If SAC response is not immediate, activate **“Code Blue” by dialing 476-1234**
 - b. **Mount Zion Post Street:** Activate EMS by calling 911
 - c. **Mount Zion Cancer Center:** Activate **“Code Blue” team by dialing 885-1234**
2. Remain calm and stay with the patient until the team arrives
3. Provide information requested by the team
4. If possible, notify Ordering Physician, clarify if underlying medical condition exists
5. Do not release the patient from the laboratory until they have been cleared by medical staff.

PROCEDURE NOTES:

Please Note: ACC Chairs are specially designed to lay flat.

1. Disengage the “brake” on the wheels of the chair

2. Move the chair away from the wall
3. Locate the handle at the back of the chair
4. Move the handle up, engaging handle into the slot underneath the chair seat
5. Turn handle clockwise until the chair is flat.
6. Be aware of the patient and co-workers during this process

DOCUMENTATION:

Immediately document the event in writing (Problem Report form) and give report to your Supervisor.

REFERENCES:

Lavery I and Ingram P (2005) Venepuncture: best practice. *Nursing Standard*. 19(49): 55-65.