Arterial Blood Gas Analysis – Unacceptable Specimen

Audience All personnel in the Pulmonary Function Clinic.

Purpose To identify those specimens which do not meet acceptable standards for analysis.

Policy All arterial blood gas samples must meet the following acceptable specimen standards:

- A minimum sample size of 0.5 ml for blood gas and oximetry analysis for Radiometer ABL 80 CO-OX.
- Sample must not be clotted. If it is, the sample must be discarded and another sample obtained.
- Sample must be run within five minutes of drawing. If not able, sample should be placed on ice immediately after being drawn.

NOTE: The Pulmonary Function Clinic Policy states that the Therapist performing the puncture will analyze the arterial blood gas sample immediately. Exception - exercise stress tests where multiple samples are obtained and analyzed at the conclusion of the exercise study.

This form documents the approval and history of the policies and procedures for the Pulmonary Function Laboratory. The Medical Director signs all policies verifying initial approval. Annually thereafter, the Director and/or designee may approve reviews and revisions.

Date Approved by: Signature

11/07 V. Cardenas, MD Medical Director Pulmonary Laboratory
6/09 V. Cardenas, MD No changes to the policy
7/10 V. Cardenas, MD No changes to the policy
2/12 A. Duarte, MD Medical Director Pulmonary Function Laboratory No changes made to the policy
4/14 A. Duarte, MD Medical Director Pulmonary Function Laboratory Changes made to policy