

University of Texas Medical Branch Pulmonary Function Clinic Policy 04-04 Recapping Needles	Effective Date: Nov 90 Revised Date: Oct 05 Review Date: Aug 23
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Recapping Needles

Audience All personnel in the Pulmonary Laboratories: Pulmonary Function Clinics and Bronchoscopy Service.

Purpose To define a policy for the recapping of needles after an arterial puncture.

Policy In general, the practice of recapping needles used for injections or blood drawing is not done. In the case of arterial blood gas samples, the sample must not be exposed to room air. Because of this, some type of recapping must be done. Listed below are the acceptable methods of recapping the sample so as not to expose it to room air. The simple two-handed recapping of needles is **prohibited**.

One-Handed Recapping Using Needle Protection Syringe:

- Remove cap from needle and discard in trash.
- Perform puncture, obtain sample, and withdraw needle.
- Recap needle by carefully using the table to engage the safety cover of the needle protection device until you hear it click.
- Needle now covered and secure; system can be removed and replaced with black rubber stopper/ or vent stopped from ABG kit.

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 No changes made to the policy	
8/16	A. Duarte, MD Medical Director Pulmonary Function Laboratory No changes made to the policy	
11/17	A. Duarte, MD Medical Director Pulmonary Function Laboratory No changes made to the policy	

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8/19 **A. Duarte, MD**
Medical Director Pulmonary Function Laboratory
No changes made to the policy

8/21 **A. Duarte, MD**
Medical Director Pulmonary Function Laboratory
No changes made to the policy

8/23 **A. Duarte, MD**
Medical Director Pulmonary Function Laboratory
No changes made to the policy