

OUTPATIENT ARTERIAL SPECIMENS

Warren General Hospital has a Respiratory Therapy team that will draw most of the blood gases in the hospital. On occasion, a nursing supervisor or doctor will draw these specimens. For general outpatient blood gas samples, the following steps should be taken.

1. When an order for a Blood Gas or ABG is entered in Order Entry, a label will print in the OPD area.
2. Call Respiratory at x1633 or page them at 728-4452 if the Outpatient clerks haven't already done so. Inform them of an outpatient blood gas needs to be collected.
3. If the patient has other blood work ordered, collect it now while waiting for Respiratory.
4. Respiratory will bring their own equipment, but may need a rolled towel or supplies on occasion.
5. After the specimen is collected, receive it in the computer and send it to the lab ASAP. If there is a delay in transferring the specimen to the lab, use an individual ice block (OPD Refrigerator) to preserve the specimen.