

DRUG LEVEL DRAWING TIMES AND GUIDELINES

Section: Nursing

Compliance: ACHC Infusion Pharmacy

ACHC Standards: N/A

URAC Standards: N/A

TJC Standards: NPSG.010101 EP1, EP2

Policy ID: NUR005

Effective: 1/1/21

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Approved by: Kathleen Patrick, President, 1/1/21, 5/1/21, 5/1/22, 2/1/24

I. POLICY

The following drawing times will be used, unless otherwise specified by the physician or laboratory specifications when drawing drug levels. Avoid, if possible, the Central Venous Access Device (CVAD) lumen being used for drug administration to obtain lab specimens. Evaluate test results when the drug level was drawn from the same lumen the medication was administered through, and the sample may need to be re-drawn via peripheral vein blood draw for accurate results before dose adjustments are made. Notify the physician and pharmacist if the CVAD lumen used for drug administration is also used for lab draws.

When collecting the blood specimen for drug level testing the laboratory requisition should include the drug name, dose administered, time of last infusion and specimen collection time.

Vancomycin and Tobramycin levels have statistical difference when drawn from the CVAD compared to direct peripheral venipuncture, though the differences are not clinically significant to result in dose adjustment.

Lab draws immediately prior to infusion is defined as 30 minutes to 1 hour prior to the next dose.

II. PROCEDURES

MEDICATION	TROUGH	PEAK
Amikacin	Immediately prior to infusion	30 minutes after completion of 30-minute infusion or at completion of 60-minute infusion
Gentamicin	Immediately prior to infusion	30 minutes after completion of 30-minute infusion or at the completion of 60-minute infusion

Tobramycin	Immediately prior to infusion	30 minutes after completion of 30-minute infusion or at the completion of 60-minute infusion
Vancomycin	Immediately prior to Infusion	not indicated

Reference:

Infusion Nurses Society. 8th Edition (2021). Infusion Therapy Standards of Practice. Journal of Infusion Nursing, Volume 44.

The Joint Commission. (1/1/2024). Joint Commission Resources E-dition