

Special Instructions

Special Procedure for Drawing Specimen from an A-Line

If the blood specimen must be drawn through an indwelling catheter, possible heparin contamination should be considered. Such specimens must have a minimum of 10 mLs of blood cleared from the line prior to specimen collection, or alternatively, the line can be flushed with saline and the first 5 mL of blood discarded. In instances when this is not possible (pediatric patients/neonates), protocol for "hepzyme" treatment is to be utilized.

Absolute minimum clearance volume in such cases: 2mL. If the aPTT is being utilized to monitor therapeutic heparin therapy, hepzyme CANNOT be utilized. It may not be possible to obtain an appropriate clearance in a pediatric patient that is receiving heparin therapeutically. In these cases, a peripheral collection would be best for monitoring heparin therapy. If a peripheral draw is not possible, submit the specimen without treating with hepzyme and note the amount wasted.