

Division of Nuclear Medicine Procedure / Protocol University Hospital & The American Center

PREVENTING BLOODBORNE PATHOGENS
UPDATED: MARCH 2017

POLICY

Labeling Blood Elements (WBC's, RBC's, Platelets)

- Red blood cells are the only blood elements labeled by Nuclear Technologists or the Nuclear Pharmacy.
- The requirements for labeling white blood cells or platelets are no longer available within the Nuclear Medicine Section. Cardinal Health Nuclear Pharmacy labels white blood cells or platelets for UWHC.

Red Blood Cells Specifically

- RBC labeling for MUGA, GI bleeding studies, and denatured RBC scans will use the in vitro UltraTag® method. On occasion, MUGA, or GI bleeding studies can use the modified in-vivo/vitro.
- Only one labeling procedure will be done in an area at one time to avoid mixing up patient samples and doses.
- The same technologist will do the entire labeling procedure, i.e. the same technologist draws the blood, labels the product and re-injects the labeled product. The only exception to this is end of shift when it is in the patient's best interest to start now, even though that technologist cannot complete the labeling, then a direct hand-off will be allowed.

White Blood Cells or Platelets Specifically

- One Nuclear Medicine technologist will do the entire blood collection procedure, which includes completing all Cardinal paperwork, placing the Cardinal wristband onto the patient's wrist, and packaging the blood for pickup by Cardinal Health Nuclear Pharmacy.
- One Nuclear Medicine technologist, Nuclear Pharmacy Technician, or Nuclear Pharmacist will check in the white blood cell dose when returned by Cardinal.
- One Nuclear Medicine technologist will do the entire re-injection procedure. This does NOT need to be the same technologist that performed the blood collection.

All Blood Collections

- Patients will be identified by two methods, which may include name, MR#, birth date, or wristband.
- Exam gloves will be worn when collecting and/or labeling blood elements.
- All used syringes, needles, and tubes are discarded in sharps disposal boxes immediately after use.
- New needles and syringes will be used as needed.
- All employees are encouraged to get Hepatitis B vaccine.

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