

Laboratory Tip Sheet for Respiratory Therapy and Core Lab: Blood Gas Sample Collection and Testing

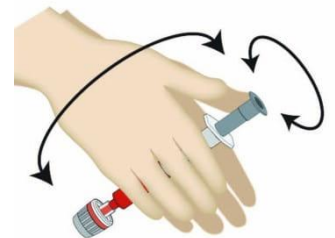
SPECIMEN TYPE

- ✓ Use dry **Lithium Heparin Syringes** for arterial and venous blood gas samples.
- ✗ **Do not** collect samples in **anything other than a dry lithium heparin syringe**. **Non-heparinized samples** should be recollected.



COLLECTION PROCESS:

- ✓ **Fill syringe to 3 mL** to ensure appropriate heparin concentration.
- ✓ **Immediately after collection**, expel any air bubbles and cap, then **gently invert the syringe continuously** for at least 30 seconds (approximately 30–60 inversions) to thoroughly mix anticoagulant.
- ✗ **Do not under fill syringes**. Inappropriate heparin concentrations may affect results.
- ✗ **Do not shake**.



ENSURE POSITIVE PATIENT IDENTIFICATION:

- ✓ **Label syringe** with IHIS label for Respiratory Therapy and Core Lab samples.



SPECIMEN TESTING

- ✓ **Re-mix** the sample by **rolling capped syringe between the hands** at least 10 times immediately before analysis on the instrument.
- ✓ **Specimen Testing:** Analyze blood gas samples **as soon as possible**. **Samples not analyzed within 30 minutes** of collection should be recollected.
- ✗ **Do not attempt to remove clots before analysis**. Clotted samples should be recollected.