



Laboratory Bulletin

Laboratory Collection Services for Pediatrics

May 15, 2019

To support the quality and safety of care for pediatric patients in all of our acute care sites, PHC laboratories would like to clarify the scope of available phlebotomy services in the Emergency Departments (EDs) at Saint Paul's Hospital and Mount Saint Joseph's hospital.

In all scenarios, Medical Laboratory Assistants (MLAs) assigned to collect blood in the ED will attempt collection by heel prick or venipuncture, depending on the patient's age and clinical condition as outlined below. A maximum of two attempts will be made.

If the above attempt(s) fail, the MLA will notify the nurse and/or ED physician caring for the patient. It would then become the responsibility of the ED team to arrange collection by other means whether by IV therapy, nursing, physician, or transfer to a specialty children's hospital.

| Age of Patient | Collection Method | Tests Available |
|----------------|--|--|
| <6 months | Heel Prick | CBC, electrolytes, creatinine, bilirubin, LFTs |
| 6 – 12 months | Venipuncture | If venipuncture – same as adults |
| | Second attempt may be heel prick at MLA discretion | If heel prick – same as above |
| >1 year | Venipuncture | Same as adults |

For any questions or concerns please contact:

Dr Janet Simons, MD
Medical Lead, Pre and Post Examination

Dr. Martin Trotter, MD PhD
Head, Pathology and Laboratory Medicine