

TIP OF THE WEEK # 61

Patients on Anticoagulants

In order to avoid exposing patients to unnecessary bleeding following the blood sample collection, the patients receiving anticoagulants should be identified and flagged by displaying the following note on top of their beds:

PATIENT IS ON ANTICOAGULANTS

All health care professionals (medical residents and interns, nursing staff, inhalation therapists, phlebotomists, and others who may be involved in blood sample collections shall exercise utmost care with those patients by applying pressure on the puncture site for a longer period of time to ensure that no bleeding occurs. This is especially important when collecting arterial blood sample.

P S: The above note does not violate the patients' rights for privacy and confidentiality.