

## Phlebotomy Guidelines for Fainting:

### Before the procedure:

- If a patient usually feels light-headed or has previously fainted during blood collection, have the patient lie down for the blood draw if possible

### During the procedure:

- If a patient faints during the blood collection immediately abort the procedure:
  - remove the tourniquet and needle from the patients arm,
  - apply gauze and pressure to the skin puncture site
  - call for assistance if help is nearby
- If the patient is seated, place the patient's head between his/her knees. A cold compress applied to the back of the neck may help to revive the patient more quickly.
- A typical fainting spell is self-limited and usually the patient comes around within 15-20 seconds.
- The phlebotomist should stay with the patient for at least 15 minutes after the patient awakes to ensure the patient has fully recovered from the fainting episode.

### After the procedure:

- If the patient states that he/she feels dizzy after the blood collection is completed, place the patient's head between his/her knees and apply a cold compress to the back of the neck.
- The phlebotomist should stay with the patient for at least 15 minutes before the patient leaves
- The phlebotomist should never direct the patient to an alternate location while the patient is experiencing dizziness.

If additional guidance is necessary please seek help by:

calling **Stamps** at 404. 894.1420

or

calling **GTPD** at 404.894.2500