GUIDANCE FOR DOCTORS ON TAKING BLOOD

1. Bring the request form to the patient prior to taking blood. Never bleed a patient without having a request form next to them.

2. Look at the patient's wristband and check that the details match the request form. Ask the patient to confirm their ID if possible.

3. Only take the blood once the patient's ID has been confirmed.
Label them correctly at the patient's bedside by using the patient ID sample label from the request form.
If this is not available label them by hand including:
First name, Second name, DOB, date and time, ward, hospital number.
Samples destined for blood transfusion require a signature.

4. Only take as many blood tubes (vacutainers) as you need. Write the time and date on the request form. Sign the request form.

5. Do not remove the lids from vacutainers – use a transfer device for blood in syringes. Re-capped vacutainers always leak!

6. Place the request form and blood samples into a clear plastic speci-sac in their respective compartments – never place the request form & blood sample in the same compartment.

7. Send the samples to pathology.