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Subject:	PROTOCOL FOR VENIPUNCTURE AFTER THROMBOLYTIC THERAPY				
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PROTOCOL FOR VENIPUNCTURE AFTER THROMBOLYTIC THERAPY

Nursing is to check that all requested lab work has been drawn prior to administration of thrombolytics. All unnecessary and excessive venipuncture and arterial sticks are to be avoided.. Any order for blood to be drawn 24 hours after administration of thrombolytics must be verified.

A sign should be placed above the patient's bed by nursing to alert staff and other members of the health team to the danger of bleeding. (e.g. "Bleeding Precautions)

A nurse will accompany the phlebotomist to the bedside. After obtaining blood, direct pressure will be applied to the puncture site for a minimum of 15 minutes or until bleeding has completely subsided and followed with a pressure dressing.

NOTE: If any problems occur, please notify the lab supervisor or coordinator on duty. It is essential that nursing service assist the phlebotomist in applying pressure.

Particular attention will be given to arterial punctures. After arterial puncture is completed the nurse should hold direct pressure for 15 minutes while the phlebotomist returns to the lab with the arterial blood gas.