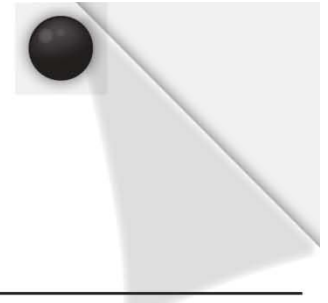


# Tip of the Month



## ***Everyone is Someone's Loved One***

**I am Joe Patient.** You don't know me, but soon my life will be in your hands.

That's because I need a blood test today, and you're the one who will draw it. To you, I'll be one of many patients you draw; but to me, you'll be someone who has the power to change my life.

Our lives have been on a collision course ever since we both entered this world. Based on the choices you made with your life, and I with mine, we are destined to meet today. You will either contribute to my health and healing or you will threaten it. It's that simple. It all depends on how well you've prepared for our meeting, and on how well your trainers and employers have prepared you. It is my hope that you won't change the course of my life, but you have the power. Think I'm overreacting? Consider how easy it is for you to contribute to a medical mistake that can devastate me:

**If you** overfill the coag tube, and submit it for testing, you could prompt my doctor to change my blood thinner medication in a way that could leave me paralyzed by a stroke.

**If you** underfill the coag tube, you could lead my doctor to overmedicate me, causing me to hemorrhage internally. I might only get anemic, but then I might hemorrhage so badly that I require a transfusion. Not only will that threaten my life, but it subjects me to all the risks that go with a transfusion, not to mention it takes blood away from someone else who might need it.

**If you** don't properly check the identification of every patient you draw today, you could put my labels on someone else's blood. Next thing I know, I'm being treated for a disease or condition I don't have.

**If you** pour the contents of one tube into another just so you don't have to restick me, don't expect the testing tech to catch it; it's not possible. As a result, you'll force my doctor to treat me in ways that do more harm than good.

**In fact**, if you do anything that isn't part of the established procedure, if you add your own unique twist to the way blood is supposed to be drawn, or if you compromise any part of my draw for the sake of expediency, you could change my life forever.

Everyone is someone's loved one. Even me. If you change my life, you change theirs. You have the power. How will you use it when we meet today?