

Tip of the Month



Wanted!

A warrant has been issued for the arrest of CTBCP, *complacency towards blood collection procedures*. The subject is believed to be armed and dangerous, and a threat to the well-being of all patients. When last seen, CTBCP was wearing white and carrying a specimen collection tray, but is known to have many disguises. Among them are colorful smocks, lab jackets, and occasionally street clothes. But the subject is always seen carrying a wide variety of needles and tubes. At first sight, CTBCP appears identical to a properly trained and conscientious healthcare professional. However, upon close examination, positive identification can be made by observing the following characteristics:

- a disregard for the standards for blood specimen collection;
- a cavalier approach to patient identification;
- an ignorance of needlestick prevention;
- lack of glove use;
- unwillingness to follow facility policy;
- labeling specimens after leaving the patient;
- a chronic lack of professionalism;
- the inability to state or follow the proper order of draw.

Complacency has a long list of prior arrests and convictions including identity theft, assault with a deadly weapon, aggravated assault, murder by transfusion reaction, tampering with evidence, leaving tourniquets on longer than one minute, and asking patients to pump their fist before the draw. Victims of complacency are difficult to identify, but the number of those who have suffered medical complications from their encounter with CTBCP is considered to be substantial.

Complacency's network of sleeper cells can be found in every healthcare facility. A systematic eradication is essential. Once positive identification has been made, it must be apprehended carefully, but swiftly. Complacency has been found to be very responsive to education and retraining, but discipline might be required. If necessary, throw the book at it---*Procedures for the Collection of Diagnostic Blood Specimens by Venipuncture, Approved Standard, Sixth Edition*---H3-A6, to be precise.

Tips that lead to the arrest of this criminal are eligible for a substantial reward, i.e., the satisfaction of knowing countless patients will not fall victim to medical care based on inaccurate laboratory test results. And who knows, one of those patients could be a member of your own family. So put out an all-points bulletin and arrest complacency at your facility before it claims another unsuspecting victim.

Complacency: arrest it and claim your reward.