

Tip of the Month



Special Edition

You're a Phlebotomist

Every day you endure demanding physicians, difficult veins, departmental friction, and the dehumanizing habit some caregivers have of calling you “lab.” All this plus having to endure “morning breath” on your a.m. draws, missed breaks and late lunches because of stats, working short-staffed, sudden surges of outpatients, and numerous requests to use a butterfly when the vein doesn’t really need one. But this much is for sure: you are the backbone of the laboratory.

Without your dedication to making sure samples are drawn, transported, and processed properly, patients would suffer. They would be misdiagnosed; they’d be overmedicated; they’d be mismanaged by their physicians because of inaccurate test results; and some of them would die. Instead, you refuse to accept unlabeled samples, you defy requests to draw patients you cannot properly identify, and you resist temptation in every form to stray from your laboratory’s policies in all regards. You know you are every patient’s last line of defense against medical mistakes, and are rock-solid in compliance with all policies and standards. You’re a professional. You’re a perfectionist. You’re a phlebotomist.

It’s not because you have to; it’s because you want to. You know your role in patient care is essential to healing, vital to wellness, and critical to most of the decisions every physician makes on every patient. Other healthcare professionals might not recognize your importance, but you’re not about being recognized, you’re about being competent, confident, and consistent with the standards. You know that your allegiance to the procedure is your gift to the patient, your unspoken promise to make sure the sample you submit to the lab will not be altered by your technique or how you transport and handle it. You’re a professional. You’re a perfectionist. You’re a phlebotomist.

At the end of the day—a day without breaks, or maybe lunch—you leave the workplace with your head held high and the sense that you did your job exceptionally well. That’s because you did. Without fail, every sample you drew, every tube you transported, every specimen that passed through your hands left your care capable of rendering a test result that precisely reflects the patient’s state of health. That’s the way it was yesterday and that’s the way it will be tomorrow and every day after that. You’re a professional. You’re a perfectionist. You’re a phlebotomist.

**You’re a professional. You’re a perfectionist.
You’re a phlebotomist.**