

Blood Gas Lab Receives Perfect Rating Team Effort Brings Excellent Results at Grace Hospital

On September 18th of this year, the Arterial Blood Gas Lab in Respiratory Care Services underwent a detailed inspection by representatives of the Joint Commission. In October, Respiratory Care Directory John Flynt was notified that the Lab had received a perfect score on the inspection.

“Labs, whether clinical or blood gas, have to meet the requirements of the CLIA (Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments) standards,” said Flynt. “The federal government’s CMS (Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services) gives you a certificate to operate your lab. Joint Commission is responsible for inspecting lab operations to ensure compliance with CLIA standards. They also look at your policies, processes, quality control, and performance improvement activities.”

Flynt was very pleased to receive a 100 on the inspection. He commended the efforts of Laboratory Director Barry Street, Pathologist, Dr. J. Hartley Bowen, and Medical Director of Respiratory Care, Dr. Daniel A. Shapiro, saying that their involvement was key in achieving the high rating.

“It was truly a team effort,” said Flynt. “The staff of the Respiratory Care Department should get all the credit for the day-to-day work-making sure they do all the things necessary to meet the standards. But the score also demonstrates the high level of physician involvement in our operation. It shows superb inter-departmental cooperation.”



Nancy Alfone runs a blood gas analysis in the Blood Gas Lab at Grace.