

CQI Alerts

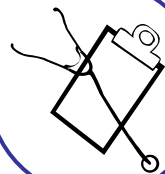
February
2005

OBSERVATIONS BY THE CONTINUOUS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FOR UWMC ANESTHESIOLOGY



LABEL YOUR LABS

- Make it a habit to label all specimens, including ABG's.
- Beginning January 1, 2005, Laboratory Medicine cracked down on unlabeled lab specimens. Laboratory Medicine will discard all specimens that aren't labeled appropriately.



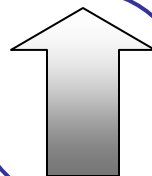
INCLUDE DIFFICULT INTUBATION LETTERS IN THE MEDICAL CHART

- If your patient has an unanticipated difficult airway, be sure to fill out a difficult intubation letter. The original goes to the patient. Give a copy to the anesthesia billing office, and remember to place an extra copy in the medical record. It helps to keep our own staff informed of these incidents!
- The form is kept in the PACU offices of the main UWMC OR, Roosevelt and the Pavilion. It's entitled, "*Vital Information about Your Anesthetic*" (medical form # UH1705)



GET DENTAL & NEURO CONSULTS ASAP!

- If your patient has some dental injury or an unexpected sensory deficit, get the appropriate consult *as soon as possible*. An intraoperative consult is totally appropriate.
- Notify the CQI Coordinator of these injuries (no matter who caused them).



OR VENTILATORS CAN BE SET TO ICU VENTILATOR PRESSURE SETTINGS

- Dräger Fabius GS piston (8 are in the UWMC Pavilion) and Datex Aestiva Ascending Bellow ventilators (in UWMC ORs 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 20) can be set to the high pressures of ICU ventilators.
- Dräger Narkomed bellows ventilator cannot be set to deliver the high pressures of ICU ventilators.



FACIAL BRUISING AND ABRASIONS SHOCK PATIENTS

- Take care around forehead, lips, ears. Continuous or repeated pressures can and have led to bruises and abrasions that last well into the postoperative period.