**Link Trainer Guide-** Key points for blood gas training

This document summarises the key points of blood gas testing which should be covered by link trainers during training.

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| **Before testing**   | * Sample should be collected into a **dry heparinised syringe** or capillary tube.
* Syringe samples should be analysed within **15** minutes of being taken
* **Capillaries** should be analysed **immediately**.
* Once the sample has been taken expel any air and cap your sample.
* Label your sample with the correct patient details.
* Roll your sample between your hands and gently invert.
* Check all parameters are **green** and analyser is in **Ready** mode
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| **Analysis** | * Select correct sample type, **capillary** or **syringe**
* Any abnormal results will be highlighted with up/down arrows.
* **Measurement of blood bilirubin in patients undergoing phototherapy**- Samples are light sensitive and **MUST** be protected from phototherapy light sources as these are specifically designed to degrade bilirubin and will falsely lower readings in both lab and POCT samples.
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| **After analysis**  | * Dispose of sample in sharps bin
* Clean any splashes with a Clinell wipe
* **Remember to log out** before you walk away from the analyser
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| **Troubleshooting** | * Refer to the information sheet near to the gas machine for.
	+ how to change consumables
		- only when consumables have expired. Any other causes will require POCT investigation.
	+ how/when to run a calibration
	+ how/when to run a quality control
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**DO NOT SHARE YOUR OPERATOR ID WITH ANYONE. IT IS A DISCIPLINARY OFFENCE!!**