**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 |
| **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. |
| **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 |
| **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 |

**DO NOT SHARE YOUR OPERATOR ID WITH ANYONE. IT IS A DISCIPLINARY OFFENCE!!**