

Preanalytical Excellence Award
226 Heath Street East
Toronto, Ontario M4T 1S9
c/o Mary Anne Cecutti

**Re: Preanalytical Excellence Award – Application Letter
Guide to Child Friendly Blood Collection Procedures**

Dear Mary Anne,

I am submitting The Hospital for Sick Children's Guide to Child-Friendly Blood Collection Procedures as a candidate for the CLMA-BD Preanalytical Excellence Award.

SickKids is seen as a leader in paediatric health care, and blood collection is no exception. Our practices are adopted by paediatric institutions and mixed population institutions alike. As such, I feel it is our duty to maintain currency in the field of laboratory medicine and in particular any advances made or challenges faced with respect to specimen collection. With this in mind, a consortium of stakeholders came together to create an inventory of current practices and research the current literature for best practice in blood collection. The result of this work is the attached Guide to Child-Friendly Blood Collection.

This resource was produced at SickKids and distributed to Hospitals, Laboratories and Specimen Collection centres across Ontario, and has been very well received by laboratory, nursing and allied health professional groups. It is hoped that this book will serve as a beginning for child and family-centred blood collection service across the province.

An inspiration for producing child-friendly blood collection sites is the distance and time some families travel to bring their children to SickKids. We want these families to have more choice in their care and to have confidence in their local site. This guide lays the foundation upon which this will build.

Sincerely,

Heather McMullen
Team Leader – Pathology, Phlebotomy and Education
The Hospital for Sick Children

Project Overview:

Actions	Outcomes
Engage a consortium of professionals to examine Paediatric blood collection procedures	Inter-professional Collaboration and Extramural Collaboration to improve communication within the laboratory medicine profession and between laboratory and other health professionals.
Develop practice inventory.	Education Professional Development
Conduct research through literature searches and develop best practices.	Education Quality Improvement Standardization Enhanced Patient Care
Produce, edit and print the Guide to Child-Friendly Blood Collection.	Production of an informative and concise educational resource.
Distribute initial guide copy via Ontario Hospitals Association list of Hospitals and Specimen Collection Centres. Subsequently fill requests for additional copies at institutions throughout Ontario.	Make key contacts, Raise awareness and recognize the impact of Child-Friendly service.
Distribute the Guide to Child-Friendly Blood Collection via the Child Health Network.	Increase laboratory medicine profile through inter-professional and extra-mural collaboration. Gain a laboratory presence in direct patient care in the paediatric population.

Future Directions:

- Follow up on the use of the guidebook and deploy SickKids resources to train specific Child-Friendly sites in appropriate locations through the Child Health Network.
- Raise awareness of those Child-Friendly sites at SickKids and locally to encourage use the sites for their convenience.
- Explore the option of sharing a second version of the guide outside of Ontario.