

## **7. ULTRASOUND GUIDED PARACENTESIS**

1. Patient must have coagulation factors <5 days old, more recent if on or recently dc'd blood thinners. Check for HCT, PLT, INR, PT, PTT only if on Heparin.
2. Must have Doctor's order to indicate: a) Diagnostic paracentesis-drain as much fluid as possible and send to laboratory and/or pathology for specific test. Dr's order must reflect what lab tests are desired; b) Therapeutic paracentesis-drain as much fluid as possible, lab tests are not necessary.
3. For outpatients, prepare appropriate laboratory and/or pathology specimen order sheet as necessary, indicating lab tests desired, make a copy of the doctors order for lab and/or pathology; prepare a reprint of admissions sheet for lab and/or pathology. The laboratory/pathology sheets are not necessary for inpatients, as these orders are prepared by the nursing floor. Prepare consent form for signature.
4. Patient to exam room, for initial procedure, order a Abd Ltd W/Paracentesis; subsequent paracentesis procedures generally do not need the Abd Ltd Order.
5. Briefly image lower abd, indicating side, to determine best access, and if fluid is loculated or complex.
6. Set up Paracentesis/Thoracentesis tray, adding sterile gloves, prep stick, 18 and 25 gauge needle, 10cc syringe, buffered lidocaine, One Step 19 gauge needle set, Vacutainers, chemistry tubes, bandaid.
7. Have radiologist sign consent form.

Complete all necessary forms. Prepare specimen receipt/tracking form for lab to initial, keep the specimen receipt form with the registration paperwork, scan into PACS with consent form.