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 Supv Laboratory
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 Groups

Lab Specimen Collection Manual - Venipuncture

VENIPUNCTURE - Blood Draw Instructions

If using Electronic identification device:

- Scan patient's hospital armband, perform blood draw, & label tube with the printed label.
- Complete the collection process in the Computer System by scanning each labeled specimen tube.
- This is all done at bedside at time of draw.

If not using an electronic identification device:

- Use patient label / chart label. Have patient state name & DOB. Assure that the patient's stated name & DOB matches the label and the hospital armband. Use minimum of 2 appropriate identifiers when identifying the patient & labeling tube (Pt Name and DOB, Medical Record number / ID number). Room number is not to be used as an identifier. Perform blood draw. Write date/time of draw & collector ID on the specimen label. This is all done at bedside at time of draw. Complete collection process in computer.
1. Use age appropriate care for introduction & explanation. Identify the patient.
 2. Ask the patient to state his/her (first & last) name & date of birth.
 3. A Patient must have two unique identifiers. (Do not use Room # as identifier.)
 - 1st Identifier: The patient's first and last name as stated & on the patient's hospital armband
 - 2nd Identifier: The patient's Med Record #/ID number, the patient's DOB.

4. Wash /disinfect hands upon entering patient's room & then put on gloves prior to procedure. Wash/disinfect hands upon removal of gloves after procedure & before exiting patient's room.
5. If patient is seated in chair, it is best that the chair has arms to help provide support and prevent falls if patient becomes dizzy / faints.
6. If patient refuses, stop & alert nurse.
7. If arm is designated as "no draw" arm. Do not draw from this arm.
8. Identify suitable site for venipuncture. (Apply heel warmer if needed to warm site).
 - 1st choice is the medial cubital vein -largest vein in antecubital area of arm
 - 2nd choice is the cephalic vein – large vein on the thumb side of antecubital area
 - 3rd choice is the basilic vein –Limit needle manipulation upon missing the basilic vein due to the close proximity of the brachial artery and median nerves.
 - Hand and wrist sites are acceptable - avoid draws to the underside of wrist and arm

Do not stick site:

- If hematoma or extensive scarring
 - On same side that a Mastectomy has been done
 - Arm that contains a shunt, fistula, or vascular/skin graft
 - Feet or legs (unless instructed by Physician/Pt's Nurse)
 - Above an IV Site or in same arm as IV (when possible)
9. Apply tourniquet approximately 2-4 inches above bend of elbow for no more than 1 minute.
 10. Do not have patient do vigorous hand pumping.
 11. Cleanse site with alcohol. Allow to dry. *If collecting Blood Alcohol, do not use alcohol or any antiseptic that contains alcohol to cleanse draw site. Instead, use betadine / iodine to cleanse site. Collect Blood Alcohol in green Lithium Heparin tube*
 12. Perform venipuncture with needle bevel up (no more than 30degree angle).
 - Remove needle if patient complains of tingling or numbness in arm/fingers. Inform patient's nurse.
 - If artery is stuck, hold firm pressure on site. Inform patient's nurse.
 13. Release tourniquet when blood begins to flow from puncture site into tube.
 14. Collect blood tubes in the correct order-of-draw (below):
 - Blood Culture Bottles
 - Plain (no-additive) Tube -for discard/waste if using butterfly or for Blue Top draw if needed
 - Blue Top Tube
 - Gold Top Tube
 - Green Top Tube (Heparin)

- Purple Top Tube (EDTA)
 - Grey Top Tube / other Tube types
15. Once blood draw is complete, place gauze over draw site & apply pressure as needed.
 16. Gently invert tubes end-over-end to mix. (between 5 -10 times)
 17. Specimen tubes must be labeled at the time of draw. Assure that the collection process is completed in Computer system. Phlebotomists use their Electronic Identification Devices to scan each labeled tube & complete the collection process in Epic.
 18. Observe site for bleeding, hematoma, or swelling before applying bandage.
 19. Discard sharps in sharps container. Do not reuse, bend, or recap needles.
 20. Dispose of trash in regular trash bin.
 21. Nurses follow their established procedure if collecting blood from IV site/line. Only Nursing staff can touch, turn on/off patient equipment (example: IV equipment). Do not ask phlebotomy staff to turn on/off patient equipment.
 22. Blood should be drawn from the arm that does not have an IV. For situations where blood must be drawn from arm with IV, the IV should be stopped by nurse for at least 2 minutes. Blood should be collected by venipuncture as far below & away from IV site as possible.

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Approval Signatures

Step Description

Approver

Date

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