

VENIPUNCTURE COLLECTION

Most blood samples are obtained by venipuncture. The basic procedure for a routine venipuncture is outlined below.

Equipment needed:

1. gloves
2. tourniquet
3. alcohol pad, cotton ball/gauze
4. safety hub and needle (or syringe, butterfly if appropriate)
5. appropriate Vacutainer tube(s)
6. adhesive pressure strip or band-aid
7. Biohazard container

Proper Procedure:

1. Review list of tests ordered to determine what tubes are needed and any special preparation (i.e. protect from light). Check for diet or other phlebotomy restrictions.
2. Ask patient to state full name and date of birth.
3. Position patient so the arm is supported by a stationary object. Never draw from a standing patient, a compromised limb or above an intravenous infusion.
4. Apply tourniquet 2-4 inches above selected venipuncture site.
5. Palpate (feel) for a vein. Work quickly so the tourniquet does not remain on arm longer than 1 minute.
6. Clean chosen site with alcohol wipe and allow to air dry.
7. Line up Vacutainer tubes in the correct order of draw. Refer to the "Order of Draw" chart found on our website (www.chihealth.com/lab-services)
8. Pull vein taut to prevent the vein from moving. With the needle bevel facing upward, line up the needle with the vein at an upward angle of 15-30°.
9. Puncture the vein in a rapid smooth motion, without penetrating completely through the vein.
10. Push the Vacutainer tube into the hub until the needle punctures the tube stopper and blood begins to fill the tube.
11. Continue to fill all tubes, mixing each tube thoroughly after collection.
12. Remove the tourniquet and pull needle out with a smooth quick motion.
13. Place cotton ball/gauze on puncture site and apply pressure until bleeding has stopped. Then apply band-aid.