

BLOOD COLLECTION GUIDELINES

1. Verify all necessary collection requirements in the A to Z test listing, including diet restrictions, special timing requirement, special test preparation, specimen type and volume, prior to beginning venipuncture procedure. Contact Client Service if additional information is required.
2. Collection of a blood sample is obtained by using the usual venipuncture technique. New gloves must be worn for each and every venipuncture procedure.
3. Properly identify patient by having the patient state their full name and date of birth.
4. Apply a tourniquet to the patient's extended arm, approximately 3-4 inches above venipuncture site and select the best vein. Swab the site with an alcohol prep pad (70% isopropyl alcohol swab).
5. Instruct patient to clench fist. The patient should not be allowed to pump their hand.
6. Enter the vein at the previously prepared puncture site, at a 45° angle. Stabilize the vein by holding the skin taut about one inch above and below the cleansed site. Point bevel of needle upward.
7. Engage the tube in the holder by pushing the tube completely into the holder, puncturing the stopper diaphragm. Watch for blood flow into the tube. Release the tourniquet as soon as blood begins to fill the tube. The tourniquet must be released within one minute of application. Otherwise, hemoconcentration will occur.
8. If multiple tubes are required, draw tubes in the following order: Blood culture tubes are always collected first, followed by coagulation tubes (blue.) Other than blood cultures, only tubes that specifically state on the label that they have no additive may be drawn before coagulation tubes. Then draw other tubes in the following order: SST gel separator tubes (gold, red, speckled), heparin tubes (green, green speckled), EDTA (lavender, purple), and fluoride tubes (gray). Mix all tubes containing an additive (anticoagulant, clot activator or gel), immediately after drawing by gently inverting 5-10 times.
9. See appendix for order of draw and inverting guidelines from BD Diagnostics.
10. When the desired amount of blood has been obtained, verify that the tourniquet was already released. Pull the tube off of the needle, cover the puncture site with a dry gauze pad, and quickly withdraw the needle from the vein. Apply pressure until bleeding has stopped.