

## VENIPUNCTURE COLLECTION

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

### **Equipment needed:**

- gloves
- tourniquet
- alcohol pad, cotton ball/gauze
- safety hub and needle (or syringe, butterfly if appropriate)
- appropriate Vacutainer tube(s)
- adhesive pressure strip or band-aid
- 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. Perform hand hygiene and then don gloves. Do not use torn gloves or tear fingers off of gloves. Do not compromise the integrity of the glove.
3. Ask patient to state full name and date of birth.
4. 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.
5. Apply tourniquet 2-4 inches above selected venipuncture site.
6. Palpate (feel) for a vein. Work quickly so the tourniquet does not remain on arm longer than 1 minute.
7. Clean chosen site with alcohol wipe and allow to air dry so it can cleanse the site to be punctured. Do not touch the site with your gloved finger after alcohol has been applied. Gloves are not sterile.
8. Line up Vacutainer tubes in the correct order of draw. Refer to the "Order of Draw" chart found on Laboratory website ([www.chihealth.com/services/laboratory](http://www.chihealth.com/services/laboratory))
9. Brace the vein by pulling vein taut with one finger below where you intend to draw to prevent the vein from moving. Do not re-palpate where you are going to poke. With the needle bevel facing upward, line up the needle with the vein at an upward angle of 15-30°.
10. Puncture the vein in a rapid smooth motion, without penetrating completely through the vein.
11. Push the Vacutainer tube into the hub until the needle punctures the tube stopper and blood begins to fill the tube. Allow the tube to fill completely. Tubes are vacuumed to accept the volume on the tube (a 4 mL tube will fill up to 4 mL).
12. Continue to fill all tubes, mixing each tube thoroughly after collection.
13. Remove the tourniquet and pull needle out with a smooth quick motion activating the safety.
14. Place gauze on puncture site and apply pressure until bleeding has stopped. Then apply band-aid.