

- 11** • Once sufficient blood has been collected,

release the tourniquet **BEFORE** withdrawing the needle.



- 12** • Withdraw the needle gently

• give the patient a clean gauze or dry cotton-wool ball to press gently on the site.

• Ask the patient **NOT** to bend the arm.

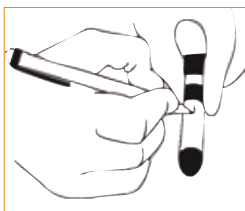


- 13** • Discard the used needle and syringe

or blood-sampling device immediately into the sharps container.



- 14** • Check the label and forms for accuracy.

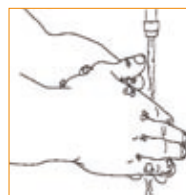


- 15** • Place items that can drip blood or body fluids into the infectious waste.



- 16** • Remove gloves and place them in the general waste.

• Perform hand hygiene.



Filling tubes

1 • If the tube does not have a rubber stopper, press the plunger in slowly to reduce haemolysis (this is safer than removing the needle).



2 • Place the stopper in the tube.



3 • Following laboratory instructions, invert the sample gently to mix the additives with the blood before dispatch.



Practical guidance on venepuncture for laboratory testing

1



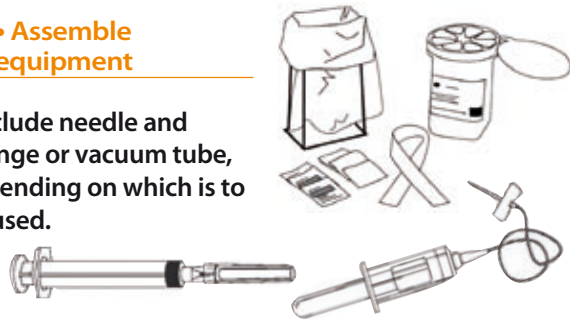
World Health Organization



WHO guidelines on drawing blood:
Best practices in phlebotomy

1 • Assemble equipment

- include needle and syringe or vacuum tube, depending on which is to be used.



2 • Perform hand hygiene.



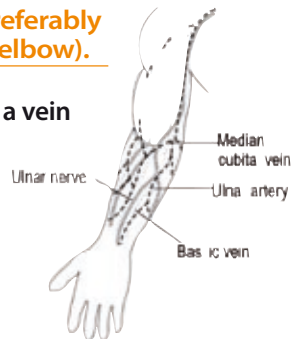
3 • Identify and prepare the patient.

Ask the patient to state his full name.



4 • Select the site (preferably at the bend of the elbow).

- Palpate the area; locate a vein of a good size that is visible, straight and clear.



- The vein should be visible without applying the tourniquet.

5 • Apply a tourniquet

4–5 finger widths above the selected site.



6 • Ask the patient

to form a fist so that the veins are more prominent.



7 • Put on well-fitting, non-sterile gloves.



8 • Disinfect the site.

Use 70% isopropyl alcohol and allow to dry.

DO NOT touch the site once disinfected.



For hospitalized patients

- Do not take blood from an existing peripheral venous access site because this may give false results.
- Nursing staff and physicians may access central venous lines for specimens following protocols.
- It is acceptable, but not ideal, to draw blood specimens when first introducing an in-dwelling venous device, before connecting the cannula to the IV fluids.

9 • Anchor the vein

by holding the patient's arm and placing a thumb **BELOW** the venepuncture site.



DO NOT touch the cleaned site; in particular, DO NOT place a finger over the vein to guide the needle.

10 • Perform venepuncture

Enter the vein swiftly at a 30 degree angle.

