

## 10 • Perform venepuncture

using a smooth, clean entry with a 16-gauge needle.

- Ask the donor to open and close the fist slowly every 10–12 seconds during collection.



- Remove the tourniquet when the blood flow is established or after 2 minutes, whichever comes first.

## 11 • Monitor the donor.

Look for:

- sweating, pallor or complaints of feeling faint that may precede fainting;
- development of a haematoma at the injection site;
- changes in blood flow that may indicate the needle has moved in the vein, and needs to be repositioned.



## 12 • Mix the collected blood gently with the anticoagulant,

either manually or by continuous mechanical mixing, about every 30 seconds during the donation.

## 13 • Once sufficient blood has been collected,

- Withdraw the needle gently and then give the patient a clean gauze or dry cotton-wool ball to apply to the site with gentle pressure.



- Collect samples.
- Cut off the needle using a sterile pair of scissors.
- Collect blood samples for laboratory testing.

## 14 • Care for the donor after the donation.

- Ask the donor to remain in the chair and relax for a few minutes.
- Inspect the site; if it is not bleeding, apply a bandage to the site; if it is bleeding, apply further pressure.
- Before the donor leaves the donation room, ensure that the person can stand up without dizziness and without a drop in blood pressure.
- Offer the donor refreshments.

## 15 • Ensure the blood unit and samples are stored and delivered appropriately.

# Practical guidance on venepuncture for blood donation

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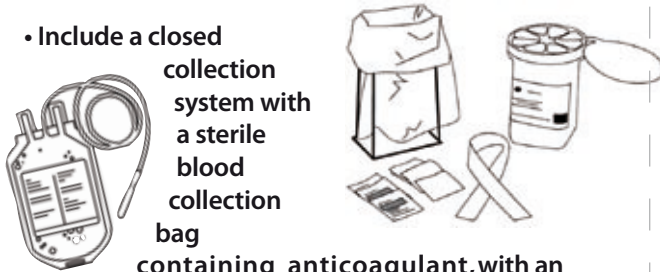
World Health Organization



WHO guidelines on drawing blood:  
**Best practices in phlebotomy**

## 1 • Assemble equipment

- Include a closed collection system with a sterile blood collection bag containing anticoagulant, with an integrally attached tube and needle.



## 2 • Perform hand hygiene.

(if using soap and water, dry hands with single-use towels)



## 3 • Identify and prepare the donor.

Ask the donor to state his full name.



## 4 • Label blood collection bag and test tubes.

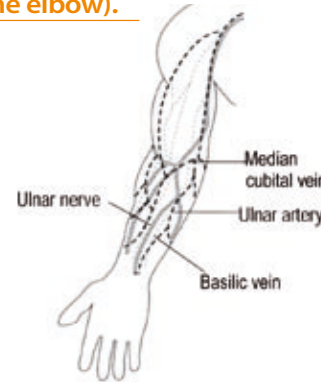
Ensure that:

- the blood collection bag is of the correct type;
- the labels on the blood collection bag and satellite bags, sample tubes and donor records have the correct patient name and number.



## 5 • 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.



## 6 • Apply a tourniquet

or blood pressure cuff inflated to 40–60 mm Hg.



## 7 • Ask the donor

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



## 8 • Put on well-fitting, non-sterile gloves.



## 9 • Disinfect the site.

If visibly dirty, wash with soap and water, and then wipe dry with single-use towels.



- **One-step procedure** (recommended – takes about one minute):

- > use a product combining 2% chlorhexidine gluconate in 70% isopropyl alcohol;
- > cover the area and ensure that the skin is in contact with the disinfectant for at least 30 seconds;
- > allow to dry completely (30 seconds).

- **Two-step procedure** (if chlorhexidine gluconate in 70% isopropyl alcohol disinfectant is not available, use this procedure – takes about two minutes):

- > **step 1** – use 70% isopropyl alcohol;
- cover the area and ensure that the skin is in contact with the disinfectant for at least 30 seconds;
- allow to dry completely (about 30 seconds);
- > **step 2** – use tincture of iodine or chlorhexidine (2%);
- cover the area and ensure that the skin is in contact with the disinfectant for at least 30 seconds;
- allow to dry completely (30 seconds).

**DO NOT touch the site after disinfection.**

