

## 10 • Withdraw the needle gently ,

- Give the patient a clean gauze or dry cotton-wool ball to press firmly on the site.
- Check whether bleeding has stopped after 2–3 minutes (longer may be needed for patients who have high blood pressure or a bleeding disorder, or are taking anticoagulants).

## 11 • Cover the needle

(use a safety needle or the one-hand scoop technique) **before** placing it in the ice cup.

## 12 • Expel air bubbles. cap the syringe

and roll the specimen between the hands to gently mix it.

## 13 • Label the syringe.

## 14 • Dispose appropriately of all used materials.

- Remove gloves and place in general waste.

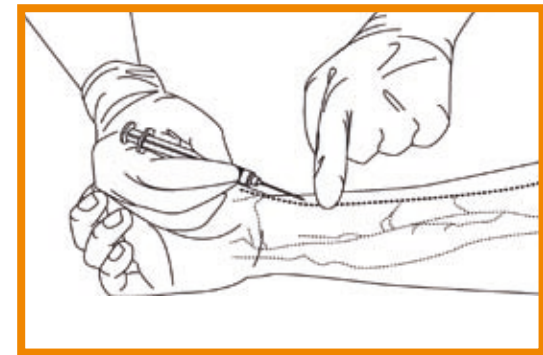
## 15 • Perform hand hygiene.

## 16 • Transport the sample immediately to the laboratory.



# Practical guidance on arterial blood sampling

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World Health  
Organization



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

## 1 • Assemble equipment and supplies

## 2 • Identify and prepare the patient.

Place the patient on their back, lying flat.



## 3 • Identify the site.

- Locate the radial artery by performing an **Allen test**.
- If the initial test fails, repeat the test on the other hand.

### Allen test

1. Instruct the patient to clench their fist; if the patient is unable to do this, close their hand tightly.



Using your fingers, apply occlusive pressure to both the ulnar and radial arteries.

2. While still applying pressure, have the patient relax their hand, and check whether the palm and fingers have blanched. If not, you have not completely occluded the arteries.



## 4 • Perform hand hygiene.

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



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



## 6 • Disinfect the site,

using 70% isopropyl alcohol, and allow to dry.

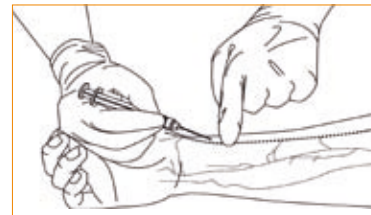


## 7 • Assemble the needle and heparinized syringe.

Pull the syringe plunger to the required fill level.

## 8 • Holding the syringe and needle like a dart,

- use the index finger to locate the pulse again,
- inform the patient that the skin is about to be pierced,



- then insert the needle at a 45 degree angle, approximately 1 cm away from the index finger.

## 9 • Advance the needle into the radial artery until a blood flashback appears;

- allow the syringe to fill to the appropriate level.

**DO NOT** pull back the plunger.

