

Blood Specimen Collection: Venipuncture Syringe Method (Home Health Care) – CE

CHECKLIST

S = Satisfactory **U** = Unsatisfactory **NP** = Not Performed

| Step | S | U | NP | Comments |
|---|---|---|----|----------|
| Before Arrival to the Home | | | | |
| Reviewed the patient’s electronic health record for history and the practitioner’s orders. | | | | |
| 1. Assessed the patient’s history for risks associated with venipuncture, such as anemia, anticoagulant therapy, low platelet count, a bleeding disorder, venous collapse, traumatic venipuncture, or phlebitis. | | | | |
| 2. Assessed the patient’s history for contraindications for specific venipuncture sites. | | | | |
| Reviewed other resources as needed. | | | | |
| 1. Reviewed the anatomy of the venous system and the organization’s practice for the preferred veins for venipuncture. | | | | |
| 2. Determined whether cautions or preconditions must be met before the specimen could be collected. | | | | |
| 3. Identified the appropriate laboratory tubes and validated the order in which the specimens were to be transferred into the collection tubes (if multiple specimens were required) and the volume required for each test with the laboratory. | | | | |
| 4. Identified special requirements for the laboratory specimen. | | | | |
| 5. Reviewed the laboratory’s requirements for labeling and handling the specimens. | | | | |
| 6. Reviewed the practitioner’s orders for blood specimens and any additional laboratory test required during venipuncture and compared them with the laboratory requisitions and labels. | | | | |
| Upon Arrival to the Home | | | | |
| Performed hand hygiene and donned gloves and appropriate PPE based on the patient’s signs and symptoms and indications for isolation precautions. | | | | |

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| Introduced self to the patient, family, and caregivers. | | | | |
| Verified the correct patient using two identifiers. | | | | |
| Explained the procedure to the patient, family, and caregivers and ensured that the patient agreed to treatment. | | | | |
| Verified the practitioner's order and assessed the patient for pain. | | | | |
| Prepared an area in a clean, convenient location and assembled the necessary supplies. | | | | |
| Determined the patient's ability to cooperate with the procedure and his or her experience with blood specimen collection. | | | | |
| Reviewed the patient's history of venipunctures and asked about signs of adverse responses to previous venipunctures. | | | | |
| Assessed the patient for anxiety or fear related to the procedure. Provided reassurance and inquired about how to provide comfort. | | | | |
| Assessed the need to apply a local anesthetic per the organization's practice. | | | | |
| Assessed the patient for an allergy or a sensitivity to antiseptic or analgesic agents or to latex. | | | | |
| Assessed the patient for sites contraindicated for venipuncture. | | | | |
| Assessed the patient's hydration and perfusion status. | | | | |
| Provided privacy for the patient. | | | | |
| Ensured that the lighting was appropriate for observing vein contours and colors. | | | | |
| Raised or lowered the bed or chair, if possible, to a comfortable working height. | | | | |
| Assisted the patient to a comfortable supine or low-recumbent position and had him or her remove gum, mints, or food from the mouth. | | | | |
| Was prepared to manage a venipuncture-associated vasovagal or seizure reactions for an at-risk patient. | | | | |

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| At the patient’s side, accessed or completed laboratory requisitions or orders. Obtained labels per the organization’s practice. Compared the labels with the patient’s self-identification (per the organization’s practice) by having the patient confirm the spelling of his or her full name and date of birth (when possible). Did not draw blood if there was a discrepancy between the laboratory requisitions or labels and the patient’s identity. | | | | |
| Supported the patient’s selected arm and extended it to form a straight line from the shoulder to the wrist. Placed a small pillow or towel under the upper arm or placed the arm on the arm of the chair or on a table. | | | | |
| Placed a clean cloth or paper drape under the patient’s arm. | | | | |
| Identified the best sites for venipuncture per the organization’s practice. Avoided contraindicated sites. | | | | |
| 1. Chose a vein that was easily visible without applying a tourniquet. | | | | |
| a. If IV fluid was being administered in one arm, chose a site on the opposite arm for blood specimen collection. If unable to locate a site on the opposite arm, looked for a venipuncture site distal to the IV infusion site. Consulted with the practitioner about stopping the IV infusion for 2 minutes before obtaining the blood specimen. | | | | |
| c. Chose a vein that was straight and did not divert into another branch; that had no swelling, hematoma, phlebitis, infection, infiltration, or recent venous access or venipuncture. Obtained the sample below a peripheral access device, if applicable. | | | | |
| 2. If a tourniquet was deemed necessary, applied a single-use tourniquet proximal to and four to | | | | |

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| five finger widths from the site. If the venipuncture site would be on the same arm as an IV infusion site, placed the tourniquet between the IV infusion site and the intended venipuncture site. | | | | |
| 3. Palpated the selected vein for firmness and rebound. Did not use a vein that felt rigid or cordlike or one that rolled when palpated. | | | | |
| 4. Instructed the patient to make a fist without vigorously opening and closing it. | | | | |
| 5. If the selected vein could not be palpated or viewed easily, applied a warm compress over the extremity for several minutes per the organization’s practice. If a tourniquet was used, removed it and applied a warm compress for several minutes and then reapplied the tourniquet. | | | | |
| 6. Inspected the vein to confirm the selected venipuncture site. If a tourniquet was reapplied, quickly inspected the vein distal to the tourniquet, then released the tourniquet. Did not select a vein on the ventral surface of the wrist. | | | | |
| As prescribed or per the organization’s practice, applied a topical anesthetic if required to reduce pain. Removed the anesthetic completely from the skin after the prescribed dwell time. | | | | |
| Prepared the collection equipment using tubes, holders, needles, and syringes from the same system and manufacturer. | | | | |
| 1. Chose an appropriate-size needle that was small enough to fit in the vein but did not cause hemolysis. | | | | |
| 2. Ensured that a double-ended straight needle or winged-butterfly needle with tubing and a safety device was securely attached to the vacuum-extraction system collection barrel. If | | | | |

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| a single-ended straight or winged-butterfly needle was used, made the Luer-lock connection between the needle and the collection barrel housing of a sheathed needle. Kept the needle hub and the connection sites sterile. Used a new collection barrel for each patient. Did not detach the needle from the collection barrel for disposal after use. | | | | |
| Located the selected venipuncture site. | | | | |
| Performed hand hygiene and donned gloves and appropriate PPE based on the patient's signs and symptoms and indications for isolation precautions. | | | | |
| Prepared the venipuncture site. | | | | |
| 1. If the skin needed cleansing, used soap and water first, then allowed to dry completely. | | | | |
| 2. Used an organization-approved antiseptic for routine venipuncture. | | | | |
| a. If using 70% alcohol, allowed it to dry completely. | | | | |
| b. If using greater than 0.5% chlorhexidine in alcohol solution, used a back-and-forth motion for a minimum of 30 seconds, and allowed to dry completely. | | | | |
| c. If chlorhexidine was contraindicated, used tincture of iodine or an iodophor. Allowed iodophors to dry a minimum of 90 to 120 seconds. | | | | |
| 3. Did not touch the site after preparation. | | | | |
| Obtained the blood specimen. | | | | |
| 1. Located the selected venipuncture site. If a tourniquet was deemed necessary, reapplied the tourniquet and located the vein. | | | | |
| 2. Removed the cap from the venipuncture needle, maintaining the needle's sterility. Informed the patient that he or she would feel a stick. If contamination occurred, | | | | |

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| discarded the needle and the collection barrel or syringe in a sharps container and prepared a new venipuncture set. | | | | |
| 3. Placed the thumb or forefinger of the nondominant hand distal to the selected venipuncture site and gently pulled and stretched the patient's skin distal to the patient until it was taut and the vein was stabilized. | | | | |
| 4. If using a butterfly needle, held it by the wings; if using a straight needle, held it at the hub. Inserted the needle at a 30-degree angle from the patient's arm with the bevel facing upward, just distal to the selected site for vein penetration. | | | | |
| 5. Slowly inserted the needle into the vein. If using a butterfly needle, looked for blood return in the tubing of the butterfly set up. | | | | |
| 6. Held the syringe securely and slowly and gently pulled back on the plunger. Carefully assessed the patient for the potential for venous collapse when using a syringe barrel that was 10 ml or larger. | | | | |
| 7. Looked for blood return in the syringe. | | | | |
| 8. Obtained the required amount of blood for all the ordered laboratory tests, keeping the needle stabilized. | | | | |
| 9. If a tourniquet was used, released it after obtaining the blood. | | | | |
| 10. Applied a sterile 2 × 2-inch gauze pad over the venipuncture site, but did not apply pressure. Quickly but carefully withdrew the needle from the vein, activating the safety mechanism to prevent an accidental needlestick injury. | | | | |
| 11. Immediately applied pressure over the venipuncture site with gauze until the bleeding stopped. | | | | |

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| 12. Observed the venipuncture site for bleeding for 5 to 10 seconds before applying tape or a bandage to secure the gauze. Allowed the gauze to remain in place for at least 15 minutes. Instructed the patient not to bend his or her arm. | | | | |
| Removed the protected needle from the syringe and immediately discarded it into a sharps container. Did not recap needles or attempt to remove the needle from the collection barrel. | | | | |
| Transferred the blood in the syringe to the test tubes. | | | | |
| 1. Connected the syringe to a sterile safety-transfer device to fill the tubes, ensuring that the syringe nozzle was not contaminated. | | | | |
| 2. Advanced the first specimen tube into the sheathed needle inside the transfer device so that the needle pierced the rubber top of the tube. Followed the laboratory's order of the draw for filling tubes from a syringe with a collection device. | | | | |
| 3. After the specimen tube was filled to the correct level for the ordered tests, grasped the transfer device firmly and removed the specimen tube. To prevent causing hemolysis, did not press the syringe plunger to force blood into a vacuum tube. | | | | |
| 4. In the order specified by the laboratory, inserted additional specimen tubes into the transfer device and engaged the sheathed needle, as needed, to fill the blood tubes. | | | | |
| 5. If the tube contained additives, gently inverted it back and forth immediately after it was filled with blood. Followed the manufacturer's instructions for the number of inversions. Did not shake the tube. | | | | |

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| Immediately discarded the syringe and transfer device into an easily accessible sharps container. Did not recap needles or attempt to remove the needle from the collection barrel. | | | | |
| Checked the collection tubes for any sign of external contamination. Decontaminated the tubes, if necessary, per the laboratory's practice. | | | | |
| Helped the patient assume a comfortable reclining position. Allowed the patient to maintain this position for several minutes. | | | | |
| In the presence of the patient, labeled the specimen per the organization's practice. | | | | |
| Placed the labeled specimen in a biohazard bag and transported it to the laboratory immediately per the organization's practice. | | | | |
| Addressed any signs of anxiety or fear that the patient experienced during the venipuncture. | | | | |
| Reassessed the venipuncture site to determine whether bleeding had stopped or a hematoma had formed. | | | | |
| Monitored the patient for infection or phlebitis using standardized scales. Reported pain, burning, stinging, erythema, warmth, or subcutaneous swelling to the practitioner. | | | | |
| Reported adverse events in an organization-approved occurrence reporting system. | | | | |
| Assessed pain, treated if necessary, and reassessed. | | | | |
| Discarded or stored supplies, removed PPE, and performed hand hygiene. | | | | |
| Documented the procedure in the patient's record. | | | | |

Learner: _____ Signature: _____

Evaluator: _____ Signature: _____

Date: _____