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Tourniquet Application

Introduction The tourniquet is applied above the intended venipuncture site to restrict venous blood flow and make the veins more prominent.

Scope This procedure is intended for any phlebotomist or health care worker who is certified to perform venipuncture or is within their scope of practice.

Policy

- The tourniquet will be placed 3 to 4 inches above the intended venipuncture site.
- When used for drawing from a hand vein, the tourniquet will be placed proximal to the wrist bone.



- The tourniquet will be tight enough to restrict venous blood flow but not too tight which will restrict arterial flow.
 - Never apply a tourniquet so tight that it pinches, hurts or causes the arm to turn red or purple.
 - Never apply a tourniquet over an open sore.
 - Do not allow the patient to pump their fist after a tourniquet is applied.
 - Always use a new tourniquet with each patient draw.
 - Never leave a tourniquet in place for longer than 1 [one] minute.
 - The tourniquet will be inspected for rips or tears prior to use and disposed of in the trash if compromised.
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Non-Controlled Documents McCall and Tankersley, Phlebotomy Essentials, 5th Edition, Lipponcott, Williams and Wilkins, 2012. Chapter 8.

Controlled Documents Regional Parent Document Reference Number: SCPMG-PPP-0123 Rev. 02

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Signature Manifest

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Review: SBMC-PPP-0038 02 Tourniquet Application

Review

Name/Signature	Title	Date	Meaning/Reason
Qiyamaa Portillo (K237031)	Assistant Director Operations	20 Mar 2020, 11:19:45 AM	Reviewed
Janice Wolf (K119893)	Director Operations Area Lab	03 Apr 2020, 12:18:01 PM	Reviewed