

## Drawing Blood from Patients with an IV

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**Introduction** Drawing blood from an IV arm has the potential risk for erroneous and misleading test results. Whenever possible, blood should be drawn from the opposite arm when an IV fluid is being administered into a patient's arm. Blood should not be drawn from that limb unless there is no alternative and the tests are critical to the care of the patient, as determined by the provider.

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**Scope** This procedure is intended for use by any person performing phlebotomy.

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- Policy**
- If a patient has an IV in one arm, the Phlebotomist must obtain the blood specimen from the arm without the IV.
  - If a patient has an IV in both arms or if the arm with an IV is the only site, the Phlebotomist must follow the procedure below.
  - Collection above the IV is not recommended and should only be attempted when other alternatives are exhausted.
  - Acceptable sites for draw are the antecubital vein, hand and wrist. Feet and ankles sites may only be used after consulting with the patient's provider and obtaining a written order, if applicable per local policies.
  - Do not draw specimens when a patient is being transfused. The transfusion may be paused for 5 minutes to have blood drawn.
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**Procedure** Follow the steps below to draw a blood specimen from a patient that has an IV and there is no other alternative for specimen collection.

Step	Action
1	Identify the patient using two patient identifiers.

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## Drawing Blood from Patients with an IV, Continued

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**Procedure** (continued)

<b>Step</b>	<b>Action</b>						
2	<p>Ask the patient’s nurse to turn off the IV for 5 minutes.</p> <p>NOTE: If the drip is an anticoagulant and the draw is above the IV, ask the patient’s nurse to turn off the IV for 10 minutes.</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>If the draw is being performed...</td> <td>Then place the tourniquet...</td> </tr> <tr> <td>below the IV</td> <td>between the IV and the draw site and perform the venipuncture.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>above the IV</td> <td>3-4 inches above the antecubital vein and perform the venipuncture.</td> </tr> </table>	If the draw is being performed...	Then place the tourniquet...	below the IV	between the IV and the draw site and perform the venipuncture.	above the IV	3-4 inches above the antecubital vein and perform the venipuncture.
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below the IV	between the IV and the draw site and perform the venipuncture.						
above the IV	3-4 inches above the antecubital vein and perform the venipuncture.						
3	Indicate that the draw was performed on the arm where an IV was present [KPPI, sticker on tubes], as required by your Medical Center policy.						
4	Have the patient’s nurse turn the IV back on.						

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**Non-controlled documents**

- CLSI – GP41-A6, Procedures for the Collection of Diagnostic Blood Specimens by Venipuncture; Approved Standard – Sixth Edition, October 2007, page 23.
  - Phlebotomy Tutorial from [library.med.utah.edu/WebPath/Tutorial/Phleb/Phleb.html](http://library.med.utah.edu/WebPath/Tutorial/Phleb/Phleb.html)
  - Annotations from Phlebotomy Procedures from Los Angeles and Orange County Medical Centers
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**Reviewed and approved by (for Medical Center Area Approval Only):**

SIGNATURE	DATE
Name: _____ <b>Operations Director, Area Laboratory</b>	
Name: _____ <b>CLIA Laboratory Director</b>	

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## Signature Manifest

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### Drawing Blood from Patients with an

#### Final Approval

Name/Signature	Title	Date	Meaning/Reason
Darryl Palmer-Toy (T188420)	SCPMG Laboratory Sys Med Dir	12 Jan 2016, 04:20:39 PM	Approved

#### Set Effective Date

Name/Signature	Title	Date	Meaning/Reason
Rebecca Rosser (K053260)	RRL ED CONSULTANT	13 Jan 2016, 09:35:08 AM	Approved