

VENIPUNCTURE ABOVE AN IV SITE

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> St. Joseph Medical Center, Tacoma, WA | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> St. Anthony Hospital Gig Harbor, WA | <input type="checkbox"/> Harrison Medical Center, Bremerton, WA |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> St. Francis Hospital, Federal Way, WA | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> St. Elizabeth Hospital Enumclaw, WA | <input type="checkbox"/> Harrison Medical Center, Silverdale, WA |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> St. Clare Hospital Lakewood, WA | <input type="checkbox"/> Highline Medical Center Burien, WA | <input type="checkbox"/> PSC |

PURPOSE

To provide instruction to staff to safely and appropriately collect venous blood samples from a site above an IV.

BACKGROUND

When a patient is being administered an intravenous (IV) infusion, blood should *not* be drawn from that area. Blood may be drawn from an arm with a heparin lock without any interference, provided there has not been an injection or flush into the lock within fifteen minutes of the venipuncture. Drawing below an IV site is acceptable provided the tourniquet is also placed below the IV site. There are times when drawing blood above an IV site is unavoidable and should only be done when all other options have been considered and exhausted. If blood must be drawn above an IV, special precautions must be taken to minimize the chances of contaminating the sample with IV fluid.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

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| R-W-SPC0105 | Venipuncture |
| R-PO-SPC0106 | Phlebotomy Collection Tube Order of Draw |
| Test Directory | Blood Culture Collection Information |

SPECIMEN REQUIREMENTS/PATIENT PREPARATION

Sample requirements vary depending on the tests to be collected. Please refer to the Laboratory Test Directory for specific requirements for each test. Patient preparation for the test collected is the same as with a routine venipuncture collection.

STEPS

1. Once the patient has been properly identified using the 2 patient identifier policy and it has been determined that the only available site for venipuncture is above an IV, the phlebotomist must involve the patient's nurse.
2. The IV must be turned off by the patient's RN for a period of at least three (3) minutes.
3. Try to select a vein other than the one the IV is running in.
4. Apply the tourniquet 3-4 inches above the IV site.
5. Draw a 7 ml red top tube first and discard it. Draw the remainder of the tubes following the established Phlebotomy Collection Tube Order of Draw Policy.
6. When the venipuncture is complete, ask the nurse to restart the IV. It is critical that the draw be performed as quickly as possible as an IV site may begin to clot if it is turned off for more than four (4) minutes.

ORDERING AND RESULTING

It may be important to note the contents of the IV fluid. When using an electronic handheld device, a comment should be entered into the comment field of the patient's draw information.

A comment template should be followed:

- Specimen drawn above an IV site after it was turned off for three minutes. IV fluid contained: Name of IV fluid type.

If an electronic handheld device is not used, write "IV fluid contents: Name of IV fluid type" on a blank label and send to the lab with the specimen. The Specimen Processor or individual receiving the sample in the lab will be responsible for entering the comment into the Laboratory Information System.

PROCEDURAL NOTES AND REMARKS

IV sites can infiltrate: The nurse must be notified immediately if problems are observed at the site, such as swelling, redness, etc.