has prominent veins tourniquet application may wait until after cleansing.

C. Never apply a tourniquet above an infusing IV Site, a heparin locked catheter, or venous access devices except in cases reviewed in section 8.3 “Factors to Consider in Site Selection”.

D. The tourniquet should not be left on the site for longer than one minute during the actual collection of the specimen due to the possibility of hemoconcentration and a variation of test values.

E. If the patient is sensitive to the tourniquet, or their skin tears easily apply the tourniquet of a sleeve, towel or even a peace of coban.

1. Cleanse the Venipuncture Site.

A. If the tourniquet was applied during vein selection, release the tourniquet during the cleansing process. Cleanse the site to prevent any chemical or microbial contamination of either the patient or the specimen by using one of the following methods:

* + 1. Cleansing for Routine Specimen Collection
    2. Using sterile alcohol prep pad (70% isopropyl alcohol), cleanse the site using concentric outward moving circles. Allow to dry before venipuncture.
    3. Cleansing for Blood Culture Collection Refer to Phlebotomy Manual policy # 158.0-gu-rev11/05 “Microbiology Specimen Collection” Section “Blood Culture”
    4. Cleansing for Blood Alcohol Level
    5. Do not use Alcohol Prep for cleansing. Cleanse site using Povidone-iodine prep.
    6. If Venipuncture site must be palpated again after cleansing the site must be cleansed again unless the palpating finger was cleansed also.

11. Perform the Venipuncture

A. Reapply/apply the tourniquet, being careful not to touch the cleansed area.

B. Using an evacuated system and needle with a safety-guard method

1. The evacuated system is the preferred method of choice.
2. Ready the collection tube/tubes per your approved developed technique. (As everyone’s style may differ slightly.)
3. Hold the patient’s arm firmly with your non dominant hand distal to the intended puncture site. The phlebotomist’s thumb should be used to draw the skin taught to anchor the intended vein. The thumb should be one to two inches below the puncture site. **NOTE:** Anchoring the vein from above is not