Overview

This standard covers the use of venepuncture/phlebotomy techniques and procedures to obtain venous blood samples from individuals for investigations.

Users of this standard will need to ensure that practice reflects up to date information and policies.
Performance criteria

You must be able to:

P1 apply standard precautions for infection prevention and control any other relevant health and safety measures
P2 give the individual relevant information, support and reassurance in a manner which is sensitive to their needs and concerns
P3 gain valid consent to carry out the planned activity
P4 select and prepare:
  P4.1 an appropriate site
  P4.2 appropriate equipment for obtaining the venous blood
P5 apply, use and release a tourniquet at appropriate stages of the procedure
P6 gain venous access using the selected blood collection system, in a manner which will cause minimum discomfort to the individual
P7 obtain the blood from the selected site:
  P7.1 in the correct container according to investigation required
  P7.2 in the correct volume
  P7.3 in the correct order when taking multiple samples
P8 take appropriate action to stimulate the flow of blood if there is a problem obtaining blood from the selected site, or choose an alternative site
P9 mix the blood and anti-coagulant thoroughly when anti-coagulated blood is needed
P10 promptly identify any indication that the individual may be suffering any adverse reaction/event to the procedure and act accordingly
P11 remove blood collection equipment and stop blood flow with sufficient pressure at the correct point and for the sufficient length of time to ensure bleeding has stopped
P12 apply a suitable dressing to the puncture site according to guidelines and/or protocols, and advise the individual about how to care for the site
P13 label blood samples clearly, accurately and legibly, using computer prepared labels where appropriate
P14 place samples in the appropriate packaging and ensure the correct request forms are attached
P15 place samples in the nominated place for collection and transportation, ensuring the blood is kept at the required temperature to maintain its integrity
P16 document all relevant information clearly, accurately and correctly in the appropriate records
P17 ensure immediate transport of the blood to the relevant department when blood sampling and investigations are urgent
Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

K1 the current European and National legislation, national guidelines, organisational policies and protocols in accordance with any Clinical/Corporate Governance which affect your work practice in relation to obtaining venous blood samples

K2 your responsibilities and accountability in relation to the current European and National legislation, national guidelines and local policies and protocols and any Clinical/Corporate Governance

K3 the duty to report any acts or omissions in care that could be detrimental to yourself, other individuals or your employer

K4 the importance of obtaining positive confirmation of individuals' identity and consent before starting the procedure, and effective ways of getting positive identification

K5 the importance of working within your own sphere of competence and seeking advice when faced with situations outside your sphere of competence

K6 the importance of applying standard precautions to obtaining venous blood samples and the potential consequences of poor practice

K7 how infection is spread and how its spread may be limited - including how to use or apply the particular infection control measures needed when working with blood

K8 the structure of blood vessels

K9 the position of accessible veins for venous access in relation to arteries, nerves and other anatomical structures

K10 blood clotting processes and factors influencing blood clotting

K11 the contra-indications and changes in behaviour and condition, which indicate that the procedure should be stopped, and advice sought

K12 the concerns which individuals may have in relation to you obtaining venous blood

K13 how to prepare individuals for obtaining venous blood, including how their personal beliefs and preferences may affect their preparation

K14 what is likely to cause discomfort to individuals during and after obtaining venous blood, and how such discomfort can be minimised

K15 common adverse reactions/events to blood sampling, how to recognise them and the action(s) to take if they occur

K16 the type and function of different blood collection systems

K17 what dressings are needed for different types of puncture sites, how to apply and what advice to give individuals on caring for the site

K18 the factors to consider in selecting the best site to use for venous access

K19 the equipment and materials needed for venepuncture/phlebotomy and how to check and prepare blood collection systems

K20 the importance of ensuring venous access sites are cleaned effectively,
Obtain venous blood samples

- the correct use of tourniquets
- the importance of correctly and safely inserting and removing needles
- how to recognise an arterial puncture, and the action to take if this occurs
- the factors involved in the procedure which could affect the quality of the blood
- the remedial action you can take if there are problems in obtaining blood
- the complications and problems may occur during venepuncture, how to recognise them and what action(s) to take
- when and how to dress venous puncture sites
- the information that needs to be recorded on labels and other documentation
- the importance of completing labels and documentation clearly, legibly and accurately
- the importance of immediately reporting any issues which are outside your own sphere of competence without delay to the relevant member of staff
Obtain venous blood samples

Additional Information

**External links**

This standard links with the following dimension within the NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework (October 2004):

Dimension: HWB6 Assessment and treatment planning
The candidate and assessor must only sign below when all Performance Criteria and Knowledge points have been met.

**Unit assessed as being complete**

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**Internal Verification —**

to be completed in accordance with centre’s IV strategy

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This Unit has been subject to an admin check in keeping with the centre's IV strategy.

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**Unit completion confirmed**

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