

Blood Draw From a Peripheral Site

PURPOSE

To obtain blood samples from a peripheral venous site to test for the presence of microbes.

POLICY

1. RNs (LPN where allowed by state LPN Practice Act) may perform a venipuncture in the alternative care setting with a physician's order.
2. RN shall wear protective gloves for this procedure and consideration shall be given to wearing goggles.
3. This procedure shall be done using aseptic technique.
4. Preferred sites for blood draws are the antecubital veins. **When drawing cultures from a PICC line, subclavian, or tunneled catheter, refer to the Central Line Blood Draw Policy.**
5. When using a tourniquet or blood pressure cuff to distend the vein, the radial pulse should be palpable.
6. Blood cultures should be collected at the earliest sign of suspected septicemia.
7. Two culture bottles (1 aerobic and 1 anaerobic) shall be filled for each blood culture. Check with the lab regarding "venting" of the aerobic bottle.
8. Check with the physician regarding the time span if more than one set of blood cultures is ordered.

EQUIPMENT

Liquid (regular or antimicrobial) soap and sanitizing gel

1 pair of gloves

Tourniquet or blood pressure cuff

Sterile gauze 2x2

Alcohol or povidone-iodine swab or other skin disinfectant

18-21 gauge needle and syringe or appropriate size Vacutainer® system or transfer device

Labeled blood collection tubes

Sharps container

OPTIONAL: Goggles

1-inch tape or Band-Aid

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PROCEDURE

1. Obtain physician order for lab draw. Explain procedure to patient.
2. Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water and dry with clean paper towel.
3. Arrange supplies on a clean surface.
4. Apply the tourniquet or blood pressure cuff and select the venipuncture site. Once the site is located, remove the tourniquet.
5. Using firm pressure and friction, scrub the venipuncture site to a diameter of at least 3 inches following manufacturer's recommendations for the skin disinfectant used. Let dry completely.
6. Reapply tourniquet or blood pressure cuff.
7. Put on goggles (if applicable) and gloves.
8. Perform venipuncture and draw required amount of blood. Remove the tourniquet or blood pressure cuff.
9. Place a sterile 2x2 over the venipuncture site and withdraw the needle. Apply pressure as needed and tape 2x2 or apply Band-Aid® over the site if necessary.
10. Label all blood tubes with patient identifiers and transport to lab per specific laboratory requirements and Infection Prevention Policies & Procedures.
11. Document the procedure in the patient's medical record.
12. For pediatric patients the amount of blood obtained should be documented in the medical record. See the Pediatric Protocol for information on volume limitations.
13. Dispose of all hazardous materials and waste in the appropriate containers according to state and federal regulations.

RESPONSIBILITY

The Clinical Specialist has the responsibility for approval of, compliance with, and revisions to this policy.

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MODIFICATION/REVISION

This policy is subject to modification or revision in part or its entirety to reflect changes in conditions subsequent to the effective date of this policy.

REFERENCES

1. Infusion Nursing Standards of Practice – Revised 2016; Journal of Infusion Nursing, Supplement to January/February 2016, Volume 39, Number 1S.
2. Infusion Nursing: An Evidence-Based Approach, Third Edition edited by Mary Alexander, Ann Corrigan, Lisa Gorski, Judy Hankins, and Roxanne Perucca.
3. INS (Infusion Nurses Society) Policies and Procedures for Infusion Nursing, 3rd Edition.