



TITLE: **LAB SPECIMEN COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS – Fingerstick**

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PERFORMED BY: Resource for Specimen Collections

MANUAL: Specimen Collection Manual

FORMULATED BY: Lab Phlebotomy Supervisor

FINGERSTICK

A Patient must have minimum of two unique identifiers. The patient's first and last name on the hospital armband is the first identifier and the patient's ID #, Hosp #, Med Rec # "or" the patient's DOB is the 2nd identifier. Do not use Room # as one of the unique identifiers. The collected specimen(s) must be labeled at the time of draw.

If using Electronic identification device:

- Scan patient's hospital armband, perform blood draw, & label tube with the printed label.
- Complete collection process in the Computer System by scanning each labeled specimen tube.
- This is all done at bedside at time of draw.

If not using an electronic identification device:

- Use patient label / chart label. Have patient state name & DOB. Assure that the patient's stated name & DOB matches the label and the hospital armband. Use minimum of 2 appropriate identifiers when identifying the patient & labeling tube. Perform blood draw. Write date/time of draw & collector ID on the specimen label. This is all done at bedside at time of draw. Complete collection process in computer.

Finger-stick:

- Use proper introduction & age appropriate care
- Wash /disinfect hands upon entering patient's room and before leaving patient's room
- Identify patient correctly (as stated above). Ask the patient to state his/her name & DOB
- Identify suitable site for puncture.
 - It is best to use only the middle or ring finger (the index finger is not a good choice because it may be calloused. Do not use the thumb.
 - Select a site that has not been previously used. Assure that the selected site is not edematous, unhealed or infected.
 - Stick on either side of the fleshy pad (because it has less nerve tissue). Do not stick the tip of the finger or the middle of the finger (fleshy pad).
- If needed, warming the skin puncture area (at least 5 min) prior to stick increases blood flow. Having patient hold hand down below torso will help increase blood flow. Gently massaging fingers/hand may help increase blood flow.
- Wash/disinfect hands and apply gloves and any other needed PPE
- Gather supplies: safety lancet device, alcohol pad, gauze, and bandage.
- Cleanse area well with alcohol.
- Wipe/rub the finger dry with clean dry gauze. (prefer not to use cotton ball due to fibers)
- Using safety lancet device, make a quick, deliberate puncture -slanted/perpendicular to (across)

the lines of the fingerprint may allow blood to bead up rather than run down the finger.

- Wipe away first drop of blood with clean, dry gauze. This first drop of blood can be contaminated/diluted with tissue fluid.
- Apply gentle (repeated) intermittent pressure behind finger & area of puncture, to allow for big drop of blood and good blood flow. (Do not excessively squeeze the finger.)
- Allow blood drop to flow freely into the microtainer. Gently flick or tap microtainer gently on surface to mix in between drops.
- Fill microtainer to the appropriate level. Apply Cap tightly.
- Gently invert microtainer 8-10 times immediately after collection for further mixing.
- Label microtainer tube with appropriate information. The collected specimen must be labeled at the time of draw with minimum of 2 unique identifiers. (See specimen labeling)
 - Patient's Name
 - Date of Birth or ID #, Med Red #, Hosp #)
 - Date and Time of collection
 - Collector's initials
- Place clean, dry gauze on site. Apply pressure. Check for bleeding. Apply bandage.
- Discard safety lancet device in sharps box. Dispose of trash appropriately in trash bin.
- Remove gloves wash/disinfect hands.

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