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MEDICAL PRACTICE

Performance of Venepuncture for Adults Guideline

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Contents

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Performance of Venepuncture Guideline authorise by :-



J Godfrey

Lead Nurse

Introduction

Blood tests have a wide range of uses and are one of the most common types of medical test. They are often requested to:-

- assess general state of health
- check for infection
- see how well certain organs, such as the liver and kidneys, are working
- screen for certain genetic conditions

This guideline relates to staff that have completed relevant training/education and have been assessed as competent to perform venepuncture (adults and or children). It should be used in conjunction with standard precautions for infection prevention and control and relevant health and safety measures

Equipment

- Appropriate vacutainer and needle
- 2% chlorhexidine in 70% alcohol skin wipe (Clinell)

Performance of Venepuncture for Adults Guideline

- Disposable tourniquet
- Cotton wool and tape
- Sharps bin
- Appropriate sample collection bottles
- Non-sterile gloves (additional protective equipment as necessary)

Procedure

- Confirm patient identity, explain procedure and obtain informed verbal consent
- Assemble equipment (use wipeable tray)
- Position patient appropriately, clean hands and prepare equipment
- Apply tourniquet and palpate vein
- Clean hands and apply gloves
- Clean patient's skin using Clinell wipe (left and right/back and forth 30sec) and allow to air dry
- Insert needle into vein and attach sample tubes in correct order of draw – remove last bottle
- Release tourniquet and hold cotton wool over puncture site as needle is removed
- Engage sharp safety mechanism and discard in sharps bin
- Ask patient to keep arm straight and apply pressure for 1-2 mins until bleeding ceases and then secure cotton wool with tape
- Clean tray, clean wipeable re-useable tourniquet, dispose of tourniquet if one use, gloves and wash hands
- Ensure ICE request form is completed and the sample bottles are correctly labelled
- Document blood sample taken and sent to lab and consent given.
- Inform patient of procedure for obtaining results.

Advice should be sought if:

- There have been two unsuccessful attempts. A different clinician may, with the patient's consent, try a third attempt. However after three failed attempts the patient should be booked into another appointment on a different day. They should be advised to drink plenty of water leading up to the test and to keep arms warm to promote vein prominence.

References

- <https://tools.skillsforhealth.org.uk/competence-details/html/2711/ANTT> - accessed Aug 24



Storage of blood



Paed bloods - application Ametop.

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Version Control

Date	Version	Author	Change Details
02/12/2013	1.0	J Godfrey	Created SOP
12/12/2023	1.1	J Godfrey	Reviewed
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