



# Performance of Venepuncture for Children

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2.0	Jodie Godfrey	2022
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## **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
- Food allergies

**Due to changes in the Supplementary basket payment criteria we will no longer take blood from those children under the age of 12 years old**

**Referral process from Remedy BNSSG:-**

### **Bristol Childrens Hospital**

Children under 12 years old parents need to self refer by email or telephone:-

Email: [bchopphlebotomy@uhbw.nhs.uk](mailto:bchopphlebotomy@uhbw.nhs.uk) or phone 0117 342 7049

The blood test request needs to be placed on ICE

**Send ACCURX text “BCH childrens blood test” this provides information how to book and apply numbing cream**

**Parents to collect numbing cream pack from GP reception (advices this on pre loaded text information sent)**

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If a request is urgent then the GP should contact Puzzlewood Ward to discuss.  
Tel : 0117 3427049

### **North Bristol Trust:-**

GPs must complete the [Referral Form](#) (available on EMIS) and send by email to [paediatricoutpatients@nbt.nhs.uk](mailto:paediatricoutpatients@nbt.nhs.uk) with a brief history explaining why the bloods are required.

The GP must request the blood tests on ICE before the email referral is sent.

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Please note there may be a wait for routine blood appointments.

For queries Tel: 0117 414 5807

### **For children aged 12-16 – book 10 minute appointment and provide numbing pack**

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 Butterfly needle & syringe
- If older child – practitioner can assess vein to see if Butterfly needle and barrel with non paediatric bottles can be use
- 2% chlorhexidine in 70% alcohol skin wipe (Clinell)
- Cotton wool and tape
- Sharps bin
- Appropriate paediatric sample collection bottles- can use normal bottles if assessment deems Child/teen warrants it
- Non-sterile gloves (additional protective equipment as necessary)

#### **Procedure**

- Confirm patient identity with Child & parent
- Ensure if young child they have applied numbing cream 30 minutes prior to appointment
- If older child attends alone and is appropriate age – Assess Gillick competence/speak to parent on phone to consent
- Explain procedure and obtain informed verbal consent – from Child & parent
- Assemble equipment (use wipeable tray)
- Position patient appropriately, clean hands and prepare equipment.
- If nervous child position on parent lap- advise parent what you want them to do and if necessary ask for 2<sup>nd</sup> colleague to assist with positioning and distraction
- 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 draw blood into syringe
- Release tourniquet and hold cotton wool over puncture site as needle is removed
- Engage sharp safety mechanism and discard in sharps bin – decant into paed bottles with syringe
- 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, dispose of gloves and clean hands
- Ensure ICE request form is completed and the sample bottles are correctly labelled

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- Document blood sample taken and sent to lab and consent given.
- Inform patient of procedure for obtaining results.

### Advice should be sought if:

- If there has been an unsuccessful attempt. Consider asking a different clinician to assess - with the patient/parent consent. Try a 2<sup>nd</sup> attempt. However if 2 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/>



Storage of blood  
samples 2022.docx



Paed bloods -  
application Ametop.

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## Version Control

Date	Version	Author	Change Details
2022	1.0	J Godfrey	New SOP
April 2024	1.1	J Godfrey	Review
Dec 2024	2	J Godfrey	Re-written and updated