

Madison County Public Health

SUBJECT: COLLECTION OF BLOOD SPECIMENS

GNF 26

APPROVED DATE: 3/2/2010

APPROVED BY: BOARD OF HEALTH

REVIEWED DATE: 3/11

REVIEWED BY: BOARD OF HEALTH

EFFECTIVE DATE: 3/2/2010;1/2012

Scope of Practice: RN's

POLICY:

To standardize collection of blood samples, in order to provide optimum specimens for testing. To state collection priorities for phlebotomy services provided within Madison County.

PURPOSE:

To ensure proper collection, labeling and handling of blood specimens. To prioritize draws and collection services provided.

PROCEDURE:

1. Patient identification shall be verified by:
 - A. Outpatients: Verbal verification by patient, or guardian representative.
2. Review doctor order for labs to determine the number and type of tubes to be drawn.
3. Have copy of order for lab (s) to leave with specimen.
4. Determine whether or not patient is on blood thinners, before any lab draw, monitor site after draw for excessive bleeding.
5. Collection Methods:
 - A. Venipuncture**
 1. Observe universal precautions
 2. Assemble needle in holder. Needle should be firmly seated so it does not unthread during use.
 3. Apply tourniquet and select site for venipuncture. Cleanse site with alcohol prep pad. Do not palpate area after cleansing.
 4. Perform venipuncture observing the correct order of draw:
 - a. Blood culture tubes.
 - b. Non-additive tubes.
 - c. Additive tubes-order of additives
 1. Citrate
 2. Heparin
 3. EDTA
 4. Oxalate – fluoride
 - d. Invert all anti-coagulated tubes (Citrate, Heparin, and EDTA) to avoid clotting.
 - e. Remove tourniquet.
 - f. Remove needle. Apply pressure to venipuncture site until hemostasis occurs.

- g. Apply bandage to venipuncture site. A pressure dressing may be applied, as necessary, if patient is prone to bleeding. If patient is sensitive to adhesive tape, a wrap bandage may be used in place of the bandage or hold pressure on the site while remaining with the patient.

Fingerstick:

1. Observe universal precautions.
2. Select appropriate puncture site – third or fourth digit is preferred.
3. The finger is cleansed with alcohol and wiped with a cotton ball.
4. The puncture is made with a lancet. The first drop of blood is wiped clean.
5. Collect specimen in appropriate microtainer.
6. Apply pressure with cotton ball. Apply a “spot” bandage, as needed.

Heelstick:

1. Observe universal precautions.
2. Cleanse the heel with an alcohol prep pad and wipe with a cotton ball.
3. The puncture is made with a lancet on the outer portion of the heel. The first drop of blood is wiped clean.
4. Collect specimen in appropriate microtainer.
5. Apply pressure with cotton ball. Apply a “spot” bandage, as needed.

6. Labeling

Each tube shall be labeled at time of phlebotomy with the patient’s name, date, time drawn and tech/phlebotomist’s initials.

6. Immediately take to lab of hospital, or local doctor office.