



Collecting and Preparing a Hematology/Chemistry Specimen

Proper hygiene is essential to safely perform venipuncture. Be sure to wash hands with soap and water and dry with a clean, single-use towel.

Step 1: Gather Equipment

1. Gather the necessary equipment and tools used to perform the blood draw and place them within reach.
2. Typically, this will include (but, not limited to):
 - Blood collection tubes
 - Non-sterile gloves
 - 21 gauge butterfly needle
 - Tube holder
 - Tourniquet
 - Alcohol pad
 - Cotton ball
 - Cohesive Bandage

Step 2: Locate the Vein

1. With your gloves on, and with the patient's arm extended, inspect the antecubital fossa.
2. Look for a visible, good-sized vein, which will typically be the median cubital vein. This vein should be clearly visible before applying the tourniquet
3. Finally, apply the tourniquet 3 to 4 inches above the venipuncture site.

Step 3: Disinfect Site

1. Cleanse the site with a 70% alcohol pad by starting from the center of the venipuncture site and working outwards, covering roughly 2-4 centimeters.
2. Be sure to allow the area to dry, to reduce the risk of contamination.
3. Be sure to NOT touch the disinfected site. If site has been touched or contaminated, repeat the cleaning process.



Step 4: Connect Needle into Tube Holder

1. Unpackage the 21 gauge needle.
2. Screw the needle securely into the tube holder. Be very cautious of the exposed needle.

Step 5: Draw Blood

1. Place your thumb **BELOW** the venipuncture site to anchor the vein. Be sure not to touch the venipuncture site or you will need to repeat the cleaning process.
2. Have the patient ball up their hand (form a fist).
3. Puncture the vein quickly and at a 30-degree angle or less, bevel side of the needle facing upward.
4. Once the needle is inside the vein, insert collection tube(s) inside the tube holder (with the needle already inserted), fill the tube(s) with blood.
5. Once the blood has been collected, first release the tourniquet. Be sure to do this before removing the needle from the vein.
6. Slowly withdraw the needle and gently apply pressure to the puncture site with a clean cotton ball. Have the patient hold the cotton ball on the site with their arm extended.
7. Place cohesive bandage around the collection site.

Step 6: Final Preparation for Shipping

1. Write the patient's name and date of birth on each specimen. If online ordering, generate a barcode label for the patient's specimens. Be sure to place a label on all specimens.
2. Place the specimens in a biohazard zip closure bag. Ensure the biohazard zip closure bag is completely sealed.
3. Place any requisition/accompanying paperwork in the outside pocket of the biohazard zip closure bag.
4. Place all biohazard zip closure bags inside of a UPS Laboratory Pak bag.
5. Seal the UPS Laboratory Pak bag. Apply a pre-paid return label from Qitek Labs to the outside of the bag.
6. Allow UPS to pick up the package.