

Specimen Collection Instructions for Forensic Toxicology

To be performed only by an appropriately trained medical professional

1. Ask the patient to state and spell his or her name and give you their birth date. Check these against the requisition (paper or electronic).
2. Check the requisition form for requested tests, other patient information, and any special draw requirements.
3. Gather the tubes and supplies that you will need for the draw.
4. Label vacutainer and transfer tubes with two patient identifiers (e.g., Name and Date of Birth).
5. Prepare the patient by positioning them in a chair sitting.
6. Wash your hands.
7. Wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) to ensure both the collector's safety and the integrity of the specimen.
8. Select a suitable site for venipuncture.
 - a. This requires appropriate training and knowledge and should not be attempted without.
9. Placing a tourniquet 3 or 4 inches above the selected puncture site on the patient.
 - a. Do not put the tourniquet on too tightly or leave it on the patient longer than necessary.
10. Clean the area of the puncture in with an antiseptic wipe. Allow the area to air dry. After the area is cleansed, it should not be touched or palpated again.
 - a. If you find it necessary to reevaluate the site by palpation, the area needs to be re-cleansed before the venipuncture is performed.
11. Ask the patient to make a fist and grasp the patient's arm firmly using your thumb to draw the skin taut and anchor the vein.
12. Swiftly insert the needle at a 15-30-degree angle with the arm, through the skin into the lumen of the vein. surface. Avoid excess probing.
13. Draw 2 lavender top (EDTA) or 2 grey top (NaF) vacutainer tubes, 4 mL each
14. While the last tube is filling, remove the tourniquet.
15. Remove the needle from the patient's arm.
16. Place gauze immediately on the puncture site. Apply and hold adequate pressure to avoid formation of a hematoma. After holding pressure for 1-2 minutes, tape a fresh piece of gauze or Band-Aid to the puncture site.
17. Dispose of contaminated materials/supplies in designated containers.
18. Needles must go into a sharp's container while any other biological hazard must go into the appropriate burn-up bin or biohazard waste container.
19. Show the patient the blood tube or specimen label and verbally ask the patient to confirm the information labeled on the tube.
20. Follow kit instructions for specimen handling and shipping requirements.