DD: Additional Education in Phlebotomy Techniques
A Licensed Practical Nurse will:

**DD-1**

**Knowledge and Ability to Perform Phlebotomy (Venipuncture)**

- Demonstrate knowledge of anatomy and physiology (circulatory system), microbiology, and universal precautions.

- Demonstrate ability to prepare for the phlebotomy procedure:
  - check physician’s order
  - prepare requisition and labels
  - collect phlebotomy equipment and supplies
  - assess whether client has known history of bleeding disorders, infectious diseases, anticoagulant use, dialysis, mastectomy
  - review agency policy and procedure.

- Demonstrate ability to prepare client for the phlebotomy procedure:
  - check the client’s identification / band to ensure correct identity
  - explain the purpose of the procedure is to obtain blood samples for laboratory analysis
  - explain the steps of the procedure
  - inspect the client’s arm for possible venipuncture sites
  - apply tourniquet and have client squeeze hand
  - select the venipuncture site from suitable sites for adult:
    - cephalic vein and branches
    - basilic vein and branches
    - median cubital and median antebrachial vein
  - consider alternate sites for clients (elderly, critical ill, or children)
  - release the tourniquet and note site selection.

**Note:** LPNs who perform venipuncture have completed additional education to achieve competence in the procedure.
A Licensed Practical Nurse will:

**DD-1-4** Demonstrate ability to perform the phlebotomy and collect the blood sample:
- select appropriate size needle for client
- apply the tourniquet properly
- cleanse the site
- using a vacutainer:
  - insert the needle with the bevel up at 15-30 degree angle to skin
  - pull the skin taught over the vessel
- anchor the vacutainer and fill the appropriate blood tubes
- fill tubes in proper order
- release tourniquet as last tube is filling
- remove needle and apply gauze with pressure over puncture site 2-3 minutes
- use small collection tubes and butterfly needle if drawing blood from small veins
- after 2-3 minutes, check site for signs of bleeding, hematoma or ecchymosis
- apply taped gauze to site
- discard sharps in proper manner
- clean up and store equipment and supplies.

**DD-1-5** Label the collection tubes and verify client identity.

**DD-1-6** Document the phlebotomy and collection of blood samples.

**DD-1-7** Transport labelled blood samples to the lab, with requisitions, according to agency protocol.

**DD-1-8** Follow specific precautions to prevent complications:
- meticulous aseptic technique
- avoid repeated punctures into same vein
- avoid using large bore needle
- use gloves to protect self if necessary (standard precautions)
- report and record any untoward events in the procedures.

**DD-1-9** Ensure patient safety by making only two attempts at venipuncture before seeking guidance and assistance.