

DD: Additional Education in Phlebotomy Techniques

Major Competency Area: **DD**
**Additional Education in Phlebotomy
Techniques**

Priority: **One**

Competency: **DD-1**
**Knowledge and Ability to Perform
Phlebotomy (Venipuncture)**

Date: September 1, 2005

A Licensed Practical Nurse will:

DD-1-1 Demonstrate knowledge of anatomy and physiology (circulatory system), microbiology, and universal precautions.

DD-1-2 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.

DD-1-3 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 clients 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.

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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.