

Welcome



A clinician obtains a blood sample from a child during a 1974 arbovirus study.

From the CDC's Public Health Image Library (PHIL).

THSteps Venipuncture Blood Specimen Collection

Accepted Tube

Becton Dickinson (BD) 2mL Vacutainer® K2EDTA 3.6mg Tube



The DSHS Laboratory will accept this tube for THSteps venipuncture blood collection specimens.

The stated fill volume of the BD Vacutainer tube is 2mL. Refer to the mark on the label or to a Purple Top Tube Guide to be sure the volume is acceptable.

Blood Collection Procedure



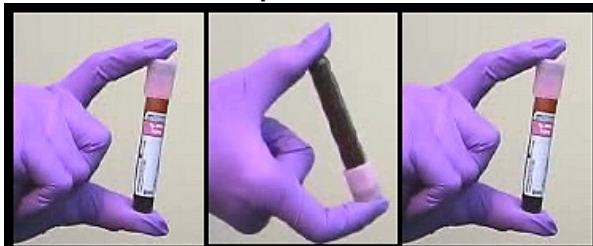
THSteps Blood Collection Procedure

1. Wash hands, rinse and dry well, and put on gloves.
2. Assemble equipment.
3. Select site for venipuncture, and place a tourniquet above the venipuncture site.
4. Ask the patient to close his or her fist. Then palpate the site and locate the vein.
5. Disinfect the site with an alcohol swab. Wipe the skin concentrically from the center of the venipuncture site outward.
6. Allow the site to air dry. Do not palpate the vein again.



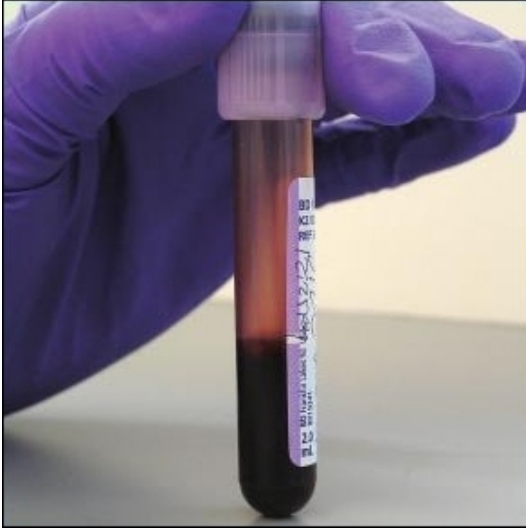
7. Tell the patient there may be slight discomfort when the needle is inserted.
8. Insert the needle in the vein at a 45-degree angle, and press the blood collection tube into the needle holder.
9. Fill the blood collection tube to the volume specified on the tube.
10. Remove the tourniquet.
11. Allow the vacuum in the blood collection tube to exhaust before removing the needle from the vein.
12. Remove the blood collection tube from the needle holder.
13. Place gauze over the puncture site and remove the needle.

One complete inversion:



14. Immediately after collection, mix the specimen thoroughly, ensuring that the blood comes in contact with the entire inner surface of the tube.
15. Apply pressure to stop bleeding, and cover the puncture site with a gauze pad and an adhesive bandage.

Tube Fill Volume



Tube Fill Volume

The stated fill volume for this tube is 2mL. Refer to the fill mark on the label or to a Purple Top Tube Guide to ensure the volume is acceptable. This guide may be obtained by contacting the DSHS Laboratory, Container Preparation Group:

Telephone: 512-776-7661

Fax: 512-776-7672

Email: ContainerPrepGroup@dshs.state.tx.us

Copies of the Guide are mailed upon request. An original color print from the DSHS Laboratory is the only acceptable version. Black and white or faxed copies should be discarded as they will not be accurate.

Mail or ship specimens on the same day they are collected or the next day.

Labeling Guidelines



Label the specimen clearly, using the patient's full name as it appears on the Medicaid card. Unidentified or improperly identified specimens will not be tested.

Preferred labeling of venous tubes:

- Use a sticky-back label no larger than 1 inch x 1.5 inches.
- Using an Extra Fine Point permanent marker, clearly write patient's name, date of birth, and date of collection (see picture at left).
- Apply label to venous tube, leaving the expiration date on the label visible for Laboratory review. Place edge of label under the expiration date and wrap securely around the tube (see picture at left).
- The information may also be written directly on the label of the tube, using an Extra Fine Point permanent marker. Allow the ink to dry completely to ensure that the information is not smudged or smeared.

Mail or ship specimens on the same day they are collected, or the next day.

For more information

For questions about collecting and shipping whole blood specimens for Hemoglobin and Lead testing to the DSHS Laboratory in Austin, call (512) 776-6236 or 1-888-963-7111, extension 6236.

Visit the DSHS Clinical Chemistry Testing Services website: http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/lab/cc_tests.shtm

