



Memorandum

#11-099

TO: WIC Regional Directors
WIC Local Agency Directors

FROM: Linda Brumble, Unit Manager
Nutrition Education/Clinic Services Unit
Nutrition Services Section

DATE: July 21, 2011

SUBJECT: Proper Blood-Collection Technique

The State Agency has recently seen an increased number of Quality Assurance (QA) findings related to blood-collection techniques, particularly the step-by-step order of when to wash hands and when to put on disposable gloves.

Prior to each blood collection, hands should be washed with liquid soap and water. Blood-collection equipment and supplies may be gathered after hands have been washed; however, if hands become contaminated prior to gloving (e.g. bathroom, handling another participant, touching dirty equipment, etc.), then hands should be washed again. Disposable gloves should be put on both hands and proper blood-collection procedures should continue to be followed.

Applying hand sanitizer may take the place of hand washing. Staff should wash/sanitize hands before the first stick of the day, between participants, and after the last participant. The gloves provide protection for both the staff and the client. Anytime there is a blood contamination or damage (e.g. puncture, rip, tear, etc.) to the gloves, staff should wash thoroughly.

Keep in mind that if there has been some sort of delay in client processing or obvious contamination, such as lunch and/or any eating event, smoking/bathroom break, changing a diaper, etc., then hands should be washed before collecting the next blood sample. The cold and flu season may also often bring about a personal desire to wash hands more frequently.

If staff prefers to put on disposable gloves before taking a client's height and weight measurements, those gloves should be removed and disposed of *prior* to collecting blood. Once anthropometric procedures have been performed, a new pair of disposable gloves shall be worn to obtain the blood sample.

For a thorough explanation of blood collection-procedures, please refer to pages 12-16 of "*Screening for Iron-Deficiency Anemia: Performing and Assessing Hemoglobins and Hematocrits in WIC*" (stock #13-06-11477).

If you have further questions or need additional information, please contact Tiffany Brown, Training Specialist, Nutrition Education/Clinic Services Unit, at (512) 341-4587 or Tiffany.Brown@dshs.state.tx.us, or Elizabeth Bruns, Nutrition Training Specialist, Nutrition Education/Clinic Services Unit, at (512) 341-4585 or Elizabeth.Bruns@dshs.statetx.us.