


<b>Name of Policy:</b> <b>Reactions to Venipunctures on Outpatients and Inpatients</b>		 <b>Effective date:</b> 01/04/2025 <b>Original effective date:</b> 01/25/2009	
<b>Policy Number:</b> 3364-107-118			
<b>Approving Officer:</b> Medical Director, Clinical Pathology			
<b>Responsible Agent:</b> Director, Clinical Pathology Administrative Director, Lab			
<b>Scope:</b> Pathology Laboratory University of Toledo Medical Center			
Key words: Venipuncture reactions, outpatients, inpatients, phlebotomy chair, convulsions.			
<input type="checkbox"/>	New policy proposal	<input type="checkbox"/>	Minor/technical revision of existing policy
<input type="checkbox"/>	Major revision of existing policy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Reaffirmation of existing policy

(A) Policy statement

All staff will know how to handle a negative reaction to a venipuncture.

(B) Purpose of policy

To help ensure patient safety.

(C) Procedure on Outpatients

1. Never attempt to draw blood from a patient who is standing.
2. Use a chair with a protective arm that will support the patient in case of fainting.
3. Make sure the patient does not have anything in his/her mouth.
4. Proceed with the venipuncture and observe the patient throughout the blood draw.
5. If the patient has a reaction, such as fainting, nausea, vomiting, or convulsions, stop the procedure.
6. If the patient feels faint, lower the patient's head to his/her knees and keep patient in the chair until the feeling has passed.
7. If the patient is nauseous, make the patient as comfortable as possible and instruct the patient to breathe deeply and slowly. Apply cold compresses to the patient's forehead.
8. If the patient is going to vomit, give the patient an emesis basin and have tissues ready. Give the patient water to rinse his/her mouth.

9. If the patient is having convulsions, prevent the patient from injuring himself/herself. Do not restrain the movements of the patient’s extremities completely but try to prevent him/her from being injured.
10. Do not hesitate to call a code (77) for assistance in OPD or Medical Pavilion and 911 for all other draw sites.
11. When the reaction is over, keep the patient at least 15 minutes before release to make certain the patient has fully recovered.
12. Inform your supervisor of the occurrence and complete a hospital incident report.

(D) Procedure on Inpatients

1. Inpatients rarely have a reaction, but should one occur notify a nurse immediately and stay with the patient until the patient has recovered, or the nurse has arrived.

<p>Approved by:</p> <p>/s/</p> <hr/> <p>Name: Amira Gohara, M.D.                  Title: Medical Director, Clinical Pathology</p> <p>1/10/2025</p> <hr/> <p>Date</p> <p><i>Review/Revision Completed by:</i></p> <p><i>Joshua Otiso, Administrative Director, Lab</i></p>	<p><b>Policies Superseded by This Policy:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>OP-1</i></li> </ul> <p>Initial effective date: 01/25/2009</p> <p>Review/Revision Date: 01/04/2025</p> <p>Next review date: 01/04/2027</p>
---	---