

NURSING SERVICE GUIDELINES GENERAL

Guideline: **Phlebotomy in the Adult Patient**



Policy Number Superseded:

Responsibility: Registered Nurse (RN)

Effective Date:

January 2026

Purpose of Guidelines: To safely perform phlebotomy procedure.

Initial Effective Date:

January 10, 2017

Procedure:

- (A) Obtain physician's order for the phlebotomy. Phlebotomy is performed as often as necessary, per physicians' orders. .
- (B) Obtain phlebotomy bag from 2A infusion center or the Dana Infusion Center (this is a special-order bag).
- (C) Wash hands and apply non-sterile protective gloves.
- (D) Obtain baseline vital signs..
- (E) Apply a tourniquet to patient's arm.
- (F)
- (G) Clean the venipuncture site with a CHG applicator or alcohol swap if CHG is contraindicated. When using the CHG, remember to repeat back-and-forth strokes with the applicator for approximately 30 seconds. Completely wet the venipuncture site with antiseptic. Allow the area to air dry for approximately 30 seconds. Do not blot or wipe away.
- (H) Start IV with an 18G catheter needle in the antecubital fossa and tape securely.

Guideline:
Phlebotomy in the Adult Patient

2

- (I) Connect tubing from phlebotomy bag to 18G catheter and begin to drain.
- (J) Place the phlebotomy bag on the scale and drain until the scale reaches the desired amount drained plus the weight of the phlebotomy bag. The bag should be lower than the patient's arm. The usual amount ordered to be drained is 500 ml. 500 ml of blood usually drains in 10-15 minutes.
- (K) Assess for the following throughout the phlebotomy procedure: chest pain, tachycardia, hypotension, and c/o dizziness.
- (L) Remove the tourniquet.
- (M) Clamp the tubing and disconnect the phlebotomy set from the 18G IV, unless there is an order for replacement fluids then connect the IV tubing to the 18G catheter. Once the ordered fluid is administered discontinue the 18IV and hold pressure on the site for at least 5minutes and apply dressing to the site. . Take vital signs.

Monitor the patient for 30minutes post phlebotomy procedure.

- (N) References.
 - 1. LifeShare. (2024). What is therapeutic phlebotomy? Retrieved August 22, 2025, from <https://www.lifeshare.org/what-is-therapeutic-phlebotomy/#:~:text=Therapeutic%20phlebotomy%20involves%20removing%20some,only%20under%20a%20doctor's%20orders>
 - 1. Peedin, A.R., Katz Karp, J. (2021). How do I... perform therapeutic phlebotomy? *Transfusion*, 61(3), 673-677. doi:10.1111/trf.16308

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Guideline:
Phlebotomy in the Adult Patient

3

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