

Introduction to Phlebotomy (Focus on Empathy) Instructor Resource

READ the following:

Children receive 18 million needle sticks per year. IV placement and venipuncture are some of the most frequently performed interventions by nurses. In a study, children 3-18 years of age were asked to describe getting their blood drawn. They described it as:

- “It’s like when someone stabs you”
- “It hurts and it is horrible”
- “Felt like someone smashing a hammer”

65% said worse than anything else they could imagine despite the presence of parents.

REFLECT on the above.

- If you were going to draw blood from a child, how could you make the process less upsetting?

Calm voice, reassurance, touch, use of a topical numbing agent, distract child, answer questions and explain all actions, allow child to touch and see items

- How could the parents help?

Have parent hold child in an upright position, be calm, focus on the child not the procedure

- How could the parents hinder the process?

Parent anxiety is highly predictive of a child’s anxiety.

Use of restraints or holding the child down

Criticism of child

SHARE your thoughts with a peer.

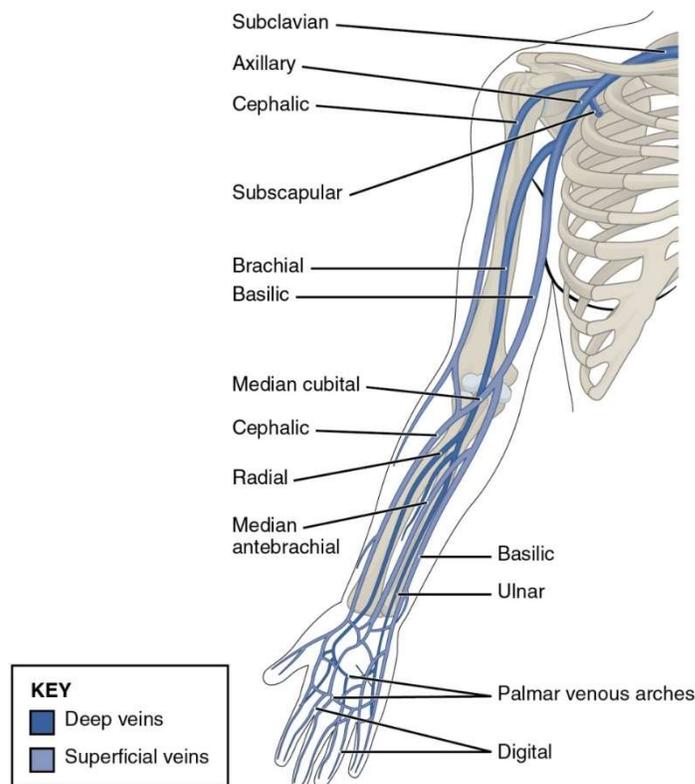
University of Iowa. (n.d.) Pediatric Venipuncture. Retrieved from http://www.healthcare.uiowa.edu/training/medtest/in-service/ped_stick.pdf

Introduction to Phlebotomy

(Focus on Anatomy) Instructor Resource

Phlebotomy is defined as a “the removal of blood from a vein chiefly for transfusion or diagnosis.” Below is a depiction of the veins in the arm.

Exercise: Locate and trace the median cubital, cephalic and basilic veins. These are commonly used to draw blood from.



Why do you think these veins are used for phlebotomy? Which direction does the blood flow? Why are arteries not used?

These veins are superficial and easier to access. Veins have thinner vessel walls than arteries since they return blood to the heart. Vein size goes from small to large and blood flow goes up the arm. Veins are safer to access than arteries because they contain less pressure in the vessels. Less pressure means less bleeding.

OpenStax College [CC BY 3.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/>)], via Wikimedia Commons. Retrieved from https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File%3A2134_Thoracic_Upper_Limb_Veins.jpg

Merriam-Webster (2016). Dictionary. Retrieved from <https://www.merriam-webster.com/>

Introduction to Phlebotomy

1.	Verify written order from provider to determine type of test.	
2.	Gather supplies needed.	
3.	Knock, enter room and provide for privacy	
4.	Identify yourself with name and title (student nurse, medical assistant, etc.).	
5.	Wash your hands with sanitizer or soap/water.	
6.	Identify patient by asking name and date of birth. Verify this information.	
7.	Explain the procedure to the patient and ask if they have any questions.	
8.	State placing patient in an appropriate position and extending the patient's arm.	
9.	Inspect the antecubital area and locate a vein that is visible, straight and clear.	
10.	Apply tourniquet 4-5 finger widths above potential site.	
11.	Palpate radial pulse to confirm arterial blood flow.	
12.	State asking of patient to open and close fist several times leaving fist clenched.	
13.	Inspect the antecubital area to confirm site.	
14.	Apply clean gloves and palpate selected vein.	
15.	Cleanse site with alcohol swab.	
16.	Anchor the vein by holding the patient's arm and placing a thumb below the venipuncture site.	
17.	Enter the vein at a 30-degree angle or less.	
18.	Draw blood collection tubes in the correct order (if applicable).	
19.	Once sufficient blood has been collected, release the tourniquet before withdrawing the needle.	
20.	Withdraw the needle gently and apply gentle pressure to the site with a clean gauze.	
21.	Discard the used needle and syringe or blood sampling device into sharps container.	
22.	Verify the label on samples and forms for accuracy.	
23.	Remove gloves and perform hand hygiene.	
24.	Check the insertion site for bleeding. Provide for patient comfort and safety.	
25.	Prepare samples for transportation.	
		Score