

BASIC PHLEBOTOMY EQUIPMENT

Although everyone may have his/her own way to go about a venipuncture, the equipment to be used should be about the same. The following are items most commonly used to perform a venipuncture.

1. Evacuated Collection Tubes – The tubes are designed to fill a predetermined volume of blood by vacuum. The tube stoppers are color-coded according to the additive that the tube contains. Various sizes are available. Blood should NEVER be poured from one tube to another since the tubes can have different additives or coatings (see Tube Specification Procedure.)
2. Needles – The gauge number indicates the bore size; the larger the gauge number, the smaller the needle bore. Needles are available for evacuated systems and for use with a syringe or winged collection set (butterfly). Eclipse needles include a safety shield that is used to permanently cover the needle after use.
3. Holder/Adapter – Plastic holder for needle and evacuated collection tube(s) to be discarded after each use. Do not detach the needle or collection set before discarding.
4. Tourniquet – Clean frequently with 70% alcohol. Discard if visibly soiled.
5. Alcohol wipes – 70% isopropyl alcohol.
6. Blood culture prep – Packet containing 70% isopropyl alcohol and 2% iodine tincture used if a blood culture is to be drawn.
7. Betadine swab or wipe – Used for blood alcohol draws.
8. Adhesive bandages/tape – protects the venipuncture site after collection.
9. Needle disposal unit – Needles AND adapters are to be discarded in an approved sharps container or needle disposal unit. Never recap a needle.
10. Gloves – Gloves can be made of latex, rubber, vinyl, etc; worn to protect the patient and the phlebotomist.

Reference:

1. The Internet Pathology Laboratory for Medical Education, Florida State University College of Medicine, WebPath internet site, 11/06/02,
<http://medlib.med.utah.edu/WebPath/TUTORIAL/PHLEB/PHLEB.html>