

SECTION: NURSING SERVICES

POLICY: # 443 Blood Drawing

Central Valley Health District will provide the service of venipuncture blood draws for the laboratory analysis of the specimen for clients as ordered by the Primary Care Provider (PCP). This service is normally limited to home bound clients who face extreme difficulty getting to the clinic for the service.

PURPOSE: To obtain an uncontaminated blood specimen without complication to be used for laboratory testing.

PROCEDURE:

Orders for the procedure will be obtained from the clients Primary Care Provider. If client is requesting this service, orders must be in place prior to performing procedure.

1. Client will be registered in the Centricity EMR
 - If client is not a current active client of CVHD, a chart will be established as with any person receiving services through the agency. Refer to Client admission procedure if questions.
2. Fee for services will be assessed according to CVHD current charges
3. Explain procedure to client and family to include:
 - Reason for the test
 - Answer any questions the client may have
 - Instruct the client to contact PCP as needed
 - The PCP will contact client with the test results.

Equipment needed

- Assemble appropriate lab vacuum blood collection tubes as determined by tests ordered.
- Hand sanitizer
- Paper barrier drape
- Alcohol wipes
- Cotton balls
- Tourniquet
- Appropriate needle for testing-Vacutainer blood collection needles or butterfly collection device
- Plastic adapter (vacutainer)
- Clean gloves
- Band-aid
- Biohazard container
- Labels for the test tubes to include client name, date of birth, tests ordered, Providers ordering the tests, date and time sample was drawn, Nurses initials.
- Necessary lab slips-this will vary with each clinic.

Handling of Samples and delivery to clinic location

- Universal Precautions will always be followed whenever working with blood/body fluids.

4. Venipuncture

- Wash hands and don gloves
- Assemble equipment
- Place needle in the plastic adapter, screwing the short rubber covered end into the adapter. Place the vacuum collection tube in the adapter but do not engage the tube in the needle.
- Place the tourniquet 4-6 inches above the elbow-the antecubital space being the preferred site for the blood draw. Cleanse the site with the alcohol wipe and allow to air dry.
- Holding the skin taut, and with the bevel of the needle pointed up at a 30 degree angle, insert the needle into the vein. Once the needle is positioned inside the vein, hold the plastic adapter steady and press the vacuum collection tube firmly into the short rubber coated needle end so it pierces the top of the tube. Blood should begin to spurt quickly into the tube until the tube is filled.
- Pull back on the tube to release it from the vacuum and set it aside. Attach another tube to the vacutainer if more blood is needed or prepare to remove the needle.
- Release the tourniquet once all necessary blood samples are obtained.
- Remove the tube from the vacutainer.
- Place a cotton ball over the needle site and remove the needle while applying gentle pressure to the site. Hold the cotton ball over the site for 1-2 minutes.
- Do not have the client bend the elbow as this may facilitate formation of a hematoma.
- Place the needle and any used equipment in the biohazard container
- Apply a band-aid to the venipuncture site.
- Remove gloves and wash hands
- Make sure the specimen tubes are properly marked with all necessary identifying information.
- The hand may be considered as an alternative site for the blood draw if unable to obtain an adequate sample from the elbow location.
- Deliver the specimen to the appropriate clinic/hospital lab.
- Document the visit in the EMR