Venipuncture Procedure

The venipuncture procedure is complex and requires both knowledge and skill. When drawing a blood specimen, the trained phlebotomist must:

1). Prepare the accession order.
2). Identify the patient.
3). Verify patient’s diet restrictions, as appropriate.
4). Assemble necessary supplies and don gloves.
5). Reassure the patient.
6). Position the patient.
7). Verify paperwork and the selection of tubes.
8). Ensure the patient’s hand is closed.
9). Select the vein site.
10). Cleanse the venipuncture site.
11). Apply the tourniquet for no longer than 1 min.
12). Inspect the needle and other equipment.
13). Perform venipuncture using the correct order of draw.
14). Release and remove the tourniquet.
15). Ensure the patient’s hand is open.
16). Place the gauze pad over the puncture site.
17). Remove the needle.
18). Bandage the patient’s arm.
19). Fill the tubes (if syringe and needle are used); using the correct order of draw.
20). Dispose of the puncturing unit.
21). Label the tubes and record the time of collection.
22). Chill the specimen (if required).
23). Send properly labeled blood collection tubes to the appropriate laboratories.