VENIPUNCTURE PROCEDURE

The venipuncture procedure is complex, requiring both knowledge and skill to perform. Each phlebotomist generally establishes a routine that is comfortable for her or him. Several essential steps are required for every successful collection procedure:

1. Identify the patient.
2. Assess the patient's physical disposition (i.e. diet, exercise, stress, basal state).
3. Check the requisition form for requested tests, patient information, and any special requirements.
4. Select a suitable site for venipuncture.
5. Prepare the equipment, the patient and the puncture site.
6. Perform the venipuncture.
7. Collect the sample in the appropriate container.
8. Recognize complications associated with the phlebotomy procedure.
9. Assess the need for sample recollection and/or rejection.
10. Label the collection tubes at the bedside or drawing area.
11. Promptly send the specimens with the requisition to the laboratory.