

For paediatric and neonatal patients

- You may need to ask the parent or assistant phlebotomist to help immobilize the child.
- Comfort and reassurance are important.
- Limit the number of times a paediatric patient is stuck. If no satisfactory sample has been collected after two attempts, seek a second opinion to decide whether to make a further attempt or cancel the tests.

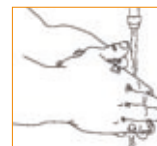
10 • Dispose of waste materials appropriately.



11 • Remove gloves and place in general waste.

12 • Perform hand hygiene

(if using soap and water, dry hands with single-use towels).

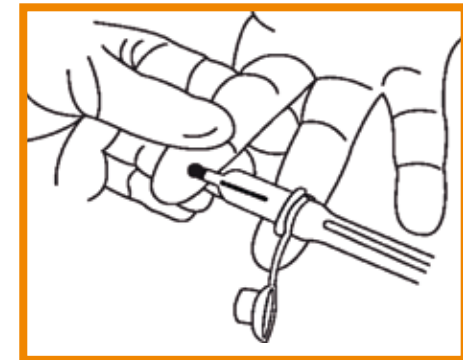


Take laboratory samples in the correct order

(Note: this is the reverse of that used for venepuncture collection)

- 1• haematology specimens;
- 2• chemistry specimens;
- 3• blood bank specimens.

Practical guidance on capillary sampling (finger and heel-prick)



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World Health Organization



WHO guidelines on drawing blood:
Best practices in phlebotomy

Choosing heel or finger-prick

	Heel-prick	Finger-prick
Age:	Birth to about 6 months	Over 6 months
Weight:	From 3 to 10 kg, approximately	Greater than 10 kg
Placement of lancet:	On the medial or lateral plantar surface	On the side of the ball of the finger perpendicular to the lines of the fingerprint
Depth:	<2.4 mm (for premature neonates, a 0.85 mm lancet is available)	Child > 6 months and < 8 years – 1.5 mm
		Child > 8 years – 2.2 mm
		Adult – 2.2 mm
Recommended finger	Not applicable	Second and third finger (i.e. middle and ring finger). Avoid the thumb and index finger because of calluses, and avoid the little finger because the tissue is thin

1 • Lancet and collection tube.



2 • Collect supplies and equipment.



3 • Perform hand hygiene.

(if using soap and water, dry hands with single-use towels)



4 • Put on well-fitting, non-sterile gloves.



5 • Select the site.

Apply 70% isopropyl alcohol and allow to air dry.



6 • Puncture the skin.



7 • Wipe away the first drop of blood.



8 • Avoid squeezing the finger too tightly.



9 • Dispose of all sharps appropriately (into a sharps container).

