

## TITLE

**BLOOD COLLECTION - COMPETENCY REQUIREMENTS**

## SCOPE

Provincial: Emergency Departments and Urgent Care Centres

## DOCUMENT #

HCS-208

## APPROVAL AUTHORITY

Vice President Research, Innovation and Analytics

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## SPONSOR

Emergency Strategic Clinical Network™

## REVISION EFFECTIVE DATE

Not applicable

## PARENT DOCUMENT TITLE, TYPE, AND NUMBER

Not applicable

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**NOTE:** The first appearance of terms in bold in the body of this document (except titles) are defined terms – please refer to the Definitions section.

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**OBJECTIVES**

- To provide competency requirements for Emergency Departments (ED) and Urgent Care Centre (UCC) **health care professionals** who collect blood specimens as part of their duties.

**PRINCIPLES**

All Alberta Health Services (AHS) ED and UCC health care professionals shall receive appropriate training prior to performing blood collection for laboratory sampling.

Health care professionals shall be trained in the process of phlebotomy to:

- Prevent lab error in blood sampling analysis, thus reducing the risk of adverse effects for patients (including patient injury and even death);
- reduce the risk of contamination; and
- prevent the unnecessary risk of exposure to blood.

**APPLICABILITY**

Compliance with this document is required by all Alberta Health Services employees, members of the medical and midwifery staffs, students, volunteers, and other persons acting on behalf of Alberta Health Services (including contracted service providers as necessary).

**ELEMENTS****1. Points of Emphasis**

- 1.1 This protocol applies to sites where blood collection by ED/UCC staff is standard practice.
- 1.2 This policy does not apply to blood collection from central venous access catheters or blood draws for Police/Peace Officers.

## 2. Training Requirements

- 2.1 All new staff orientating to the ED/UCC, and existing staff that have never been trained in blood collection, shall successfully:
  - a) complete a blood collection learning module and quiz; and
  - b) successfully demonstrate the skills on the applicable checklist(s) with certified trainer.
- 2.2 Existing staff that have previously received training in blood collection should review the *AHS Blood Collection Self-Directed Learning Module* (see element 3.1 (a) of this policy) to ensure practice is current and competency is maintained.

## 3. Training Resources

- 3.1 Training resources are available as follows:
  - a) the *AHS Blood Collection Self-Directed Learning Module* (Emergency Strategic Clinical Network's™ Education Working Group in collaboration with Provincial Laboratory Services) available on My Learning Link (AHS) or through CliC (Covenant); or
  - b) local/site learning modules developed in collaboration with Zone Laboratory Services that reflect local standards.

## DEFINITIONS

**Health care professional** means an individual who is a member of a regulated health discipline, as defined by the *Health Disciplines Act* or the *Health Professions Act*, and who practices within scope or role.

## REFERENCES

- Alberta Health Services Resources:
  - *Blood Collection Self-Directed Learning Module*

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