



# Saginaw County HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Caring experts, advocates & champions.  
For health. For everyone.

**Title:** Blood Collection by Skin Puncture

**Index:** SA 2

**Author(s):** Tammy Theisen

**Version:** 1.5

**Authorized by:** Marty Soehnlen

**Authorization date:** 07-Oct-2025

**Next review date:** 07-Oct-2027

**Organizational Unit:** Saginaw County Regional Laboratory

**Section:** Saginaw County Lab Waived Testing

**Location:** High Complexity Testing

## Introduction and Scope

---

Finger stick procedure

## Blood Collection by Skin Puncture

### I PURPOSE:

To obtain an adequate blood for laboratory tests through a skin puncture.

### II MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT:

- A. Disposable non-latex gloves
- B. Isopropyl alcohol
- C. Cotton balls or gauze
- D. Safety Blood lancets for skin puncture (finger and heel)
- E. Sharp's containers
- F. Band Aids (optional)
- G. Appropriate microcuvettes, or tubes for micro sampling
- H. Disinfectant (10% household bleach) for work area

### III. SAFETY:

- A. Use universal precautions as outlined in the Bloodborne Pathogen Plan.
- B. Use safety needle devices to obtain blood sample.
- C. Place sharp's container close to the collection site.
- D. Wear disposable gloves at all times during the procedure. Lab coat for pediatric and uncooperative patients is recommended.
- E. Change gloves between patients and wash hands.

### IV. PROCEDURE:

- A. The procedure should be explained to the patient, and parent or guardian. Ask if the patient has any allergies to alcohol or band aids/tape. If they do, consult with your supervisor. Note the allergy in their chart.
- B. Chose the puncture site:
  - 1. Newborn and infants (# 23 months): The blood is generally obtained from the heel, since this area is larger and more accessible than the fingertip. For WIC infants and children under 2 years of age, use their right heel.

The site must be on the plantar surface medial to a line drawn posteriorly from between the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> toes to the heel. (Figure, Appendix A-1). "Plantar surface" is defined as the walking surface of the foot. "Medial" is defined as close to the midline of the body.

It may be helpful to warm the site before performing a skin puncture. Warming the site increases blood flow to that area. A warm, moist, clean

towel at a temperature no higher than 42°C (107.6°F) can be used.

2. Young Children ( age >24 months) and adults: Usually the third or fourth finger is used to obtain a sample. Choose a site that is on the side of the fingertip, midway between the edge and midpoint of the fingertip. (Figure, Appendix A-2). DO NOT use thumbs.

- C. Thoroughly wash your hands with warm soapy water. Put on a new pair of gloves. Thoroughly cleanse the chosen site with 70% alcohol. Wipe excess alcohol with sterile gauze. Allow the skin to air-dry. Wet alcohol remaining on the skin will sting the client and may dilute the sample.
- D. Use a sterile blood lancet; make a deep puncture at the chosen site. (A deep puncture is no more painful than a superficial one, gives a much better flow, and makes it unnecessary to repeat the procedure.) Immediately dispose of contaminated lancet into a sharp's container.
- E. Using a dry gauze (or cotton ball), wipe away the first drop of blood; making certain the area is completely dry.
- F. Apply moderate pressure, approximately 1 cm behind the site of the puncture to obtain a drop of blood.
- G. Release this pressure immediately to allow recirculation of the blood.
- H. Collect the free-flowing blood into the chosen container. If using a capillary container, use as follows:

Hold the capillary horizontally. Touch the tip of the capillary to the underside of the drop. Blood will flow freely into the capillary and directly into the tube.
- I. Repeat steps F & G until enough blood has been collected.
- J. Apply a piece of gauze, (or cotton ball), to the puncture site, using slight pressure until the bleeding has stopped. For adult patients, offer a band-aid. For children, place a band-aid on the puncture site.
- K. If specimen is not being tested immediately, label the specimen and store appropriately according to the ordered test procedure.

## V. PROCEDURE NOTES:

- A. Skin punctures should not be performed on fingers of newborns or infants. The distance from skin surface to bone in the thickest portion of the last digit of each finger of newborns varies from 1.2 - 2.2 mm. Some lancets could easily damage the bone. In newborns, local infection and gangrene may be a complication of finger punctures.
- B. The skin puncture site must be warm and may not be swollen. Accumulated fluid, edema, in the tissues will contaminate (dilute) the specimen.

## VI. REFERENCES:

NCCLS. Volume 2. No. 5. "Approved Standard Procedures for the Collection of Diagnostic Blood Specimen by Skin Puncture". 1982.

Brown, Barbara, 1980. Hematology: Principles and Procedures. Third Edition. Lea & Febiger. Philadelphia, PA.

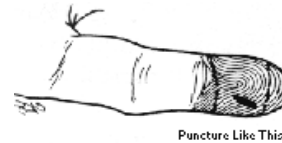
## VII. AUTHOR (S):

Tamara Theisen, MT(ASCP)



Appendix A-1

The shaded area shows recommended areas



Puncture Like This



**NOT THIS!**

A  
ppendix A-2

### Links

---

Please note: links are only correct at time of printing

#### Controlled Document links:

### Document Revision History

---

#### **Superseded on 07-Oct-2025 16:55 by Marty Soehnlen**

---

Version 1.4 superseded by version 1.5

#### **Document Published on 07-Oct-2025 16:55 by Marty Soehnlen**

---

The document was published and is ready to be used.

#### **Authorised on 07-Oct-2025 16:55 by Marty Soehnlen**

---

Authorised version 1.5 - . The following users will be notified when a review is due for this document: Tammy Theisen

Pending tasks were closed with reason: No changes, annual review time Document was scheduled to be released on 2025-10-07 The document was originally due for review on 17-Sep-2025

#### **Authorisation Approved on 07-Oct-2025 16:55 by Marty Soehnlen**

---

The user Approved the authorisation request.

#### **Set Pending Authorisation on 07-Oct-2025 16:49 by Tammy Theisen**

---

Document was set as Pending Authorisation and authorisation requests were sent to: Marty Soehnlen

#### **Authorisation requested on 07-Oct-2025 16:49 by Tammy Theisen**

---

Authorisation request sent to Marty Soehnlen by Tammy Theisen on 07-Oct-2025 16:49.

#### **Draft Created on 07-Oct-2025 16:48 by Tammy Theisen**

---

Reason: No changes, annual review time.

#### **Round 1 of reviews started on 17-Aug-2025 22:30 by Account Administrator (iPassport Support)**

---

Review Feedback tasks were assigned to the following users: Tammy Theisen

This review is to be completed by 17-Sep-2025

#### **Superseded on 25-Sep-2023 14:01 by Marty Soehnlen**

---

Version 1.3 superseded by version 1.4

#### **Authorisation Approved on 25-Sep-2023 14:01 by Marty Soehnlen**

---

The user Approved the authorisation request.

#### **Authorised on 25-Sep-2023 14:01 by Marty Soehnlen**

---

Authorised version 1.4 - . The following users will be notified when a review is due for this document: Tammy Theisen

Document was scheduled to be released on 2023-09-25 The document was originally due for review on 11-Oct-2023

#### **Document Published on 25-Sep-2023 14:01 by Marty Soehnlen**

---

The document was published and is ready to be used.

#### **Set Pending Authorisation on 17-Sep-2023 12:58 by Tammy Theisen**

---

Document was set as Pending Authorisation and authorisation requests were sent to: Marty Soehnlen

#### **Authorisation requested on 17-Sep-2023 12:58 by Tammy Theisen**

---

## Appendix: Blood Collection by Skin Puncture

Authorisation request sent to Marty Soehnlen by Tammy Theisen on 17-Sep-2023 12:58.

---

**Draft Created on 17-Sep-2023 12:58 by Tammy Theisen**

Reason: Time for review. NO changes

---

**Completed Review Feedback on 17-Sep-2023 12:57 by Tammy Theisen**

Tammy Theisen completed task, "no changes needed at this time "

---

**Round 1 of reviews started on 10-Sep-2023 22:31 by Account Administrator (iPassport Support)**

Review Feedback tasks were assigned to the following users: Tammy Theisen

This review is to be completed by 11-Oct-2023

---

**Superseded on 12-Oct-2021 08:35 by Marty Soehnlen**

Version 1.2 superseded by version 1.3

---

**Document Published on 12-Oct-2021 08:35 by Marty Soehnlen**

The document was published and is ready to be used.

---

**Authorised on 12-Oct-2021 08:35 by Marty Soehnlen**

Authorised version 1.3 - . The following users will be notified when a review is due for this document: Tammy Theisen

Document was scheduled to be released on 2021-10-12 The document was originally due for review on 16-Sep-2022

---

**Authorisation Approved on 12-Oct-2021 08:35 by Marty Soehnlen**

The user Approved the authorisation request.

---

**Set Pending Authorisation on 11-Oct-2021 19:48 by Tammy Theisen**

Document was set as Pending Authorisation and authorisation requests were sent to: Marty Soehnlen

---

**Authorisation requested on 11-Oct-2021 19:48 by Tammy Theisen**

Authorisation request sent to Marty Soehnlen by Tammy Theisen on 11-Oct-2021 19:48.

---

**Draft Created on 11-Oct-2021 19:47 by Tammy Theisen**

Reason: needs annual review

---

**Superseded on 17-Sep-2020 10:58 by Marty Soehnlen**

Version 1.1 superseded by version 1.2

---

**Authorised on 17-Sep-2020 10:58 by Marty Soehnlen**

Authorised version 1.2 - . The following users will be notified when a review is due for this document: Tammy Theisen,

Tammy Theisen Document was scheduled to be released on 2020-09-17 The document was originally due for review on 05-Oct-2020

---

**Authorisation requested on 17-Sep-2020 10:50 by Tammy Theisen**

Authorisation request sent to Marty Soehnlen by Tammy Theisen on 17-Sep-2020 10:50.

---

**Draft Created on 17-Sep-2020 10:49 by Tammy Theisen**

Reason: Annual review, no changes to procedure

---

**Review Feedback Requested on 04-Sep-2020 22:30 by Not Set**

Review Feedback tasks were assigned to the following users: Tammy Theisen This review is to be completed by 05-Oct-2020

---

**Superseded on 10-Oct-2018 10:40 by Marty Soehnlen**

Version 1.0 superseded by version 1.1

---

**Authorised on 10-Oct-2018 10:40 by Marty Soehnlen**

---

## Appendix: Blood Collection by Skin Puncture

---

Authorised version 1.1 - . The following users will be notified when a review is due for this document: Tammy Theisen, Tammy Theisen The document was originally due for review on 11-Sep-2020

---

### **Authorisation requested on 04-Oct-2018 13:11 by Tammy Theisen**

Authorisation request sent to Marty Soehnlen by Tammy Theisen on 04-Oct-2018 13:11.

---

### **Draft Created on 04-Oct-2018 13:09 by Tammy Theisen**

Reason: New Lab Director

---

### **Authorised on 14-Sep-2018 14:08 by Marty Soehnlen**

Authorised version 1.0 - This has been our procedure, but this is the first time it has been put into iPassport. The following users will be notified when a review is due for this document: Tammy Theisen, Tammy Theisen

---

### **Authorisation requested on 07-Sep-2018 11:36 by Tammy Theisen**

Authorisation request sent to Marty Soehnlen by Tammy Theisen on 07-Sep-2018 11:36.

---

### **Creation on 07-Sep-2018 11:34 by Tammy Theisen**

New SOP created



## Appendix: Blood Collection by Skin Puncture

---

### Authorisation

---

This document was securely signed and authorised by:

-----

Marty Soehnlen: 07-Oct-2025 16:55