

Clinical Collection Best Practices Guide

Specimen collection is the most critical step in diagnostic accuracy. This guide provides evidence-based best practices to reduce errors, improve efficiency, and enhance patient experience.

Patient Identification & Verification

Always use two identifiers: full name and date of birth. Avoid assumptions and ensure verification in all cases.

Venipuncture Technique

Use proper needle selection, maintain correct angle, and limit tourniquet time to prevent specimen compromise.

Order of Draw

Follow standardized sequencing to prevent contamination and ensure accurate test results.

Specimen Handling

Gently invert tubes and avoid shaking. Maintain temperature and transport requirements.

Labeling & Documentation

Label at bedside immediately. Ensure all required identifiers are present.

Patient Experience

Clear communication and confident technique improve satisfaction and outcomes.

Quality Assurance

Track metrics such as redraw rate and hemolysis to drive continuous improvement.

Standardizing specimen collection practices improves clinical outcomes and operational performance.