CLINICAL AND LABORATORY STANDARDS INSTITUTE®

7th Edition

GP42

Collection of Capillary Blood Specimens

This standard provides procedures for collection of capillary blood specimens. Specifications for collection sites, puncture depth, and disposable devices used to collect, process, and transfer capillary blood specimens are also included.

A standard for global application developed through the Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute consensus process.

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For additional information on committee participation or to submit comments, contact CLSI.

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Collection of Capillary Blood Specimens

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Abstract

Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute standard GP42—*Collection of Capillary Blood Specimens* provides procedures for collection of capillary blood specimens that contribute to the accuracy of the results and the safety of the patient and the health care professional. Specifications for collection sites, puncture depth, and disposable devices used to collect, process, and transfer capillary blood specimens are also included.

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Foreword

Proper capillary blood collection and handling procedures are critical to accurately reflect patient physiology. This standard provides guidance for proper capillary blood collection procedures and processes to ensure the safety of the patient as well as the health care professional responsible for blood specimen collections. Maintaining a standardized collection procedure will help reduce preexamination errors.

Overview of Changes

This standard replaces the previous edition of the approved standard, GP42-A6, published in 2008. Several changes were made in this edition. One of the principal changes is content reorganization to reflect a process composed of multiple procedures, consistent with the incorporation of QMS principles into CLSI documents. This standard provides sequential procedures that make up the process of successful, safe capillary blood specimen collections. The quality system essentials (QSEs) are foundational building blocks that function effectively to support the laboratory's path of workflow. Adherence to the QSEs ensures that collection is performed at a higher level of overall quality. Other changes include:

- Providing greater detail on patient identification, registration, and specimen labeling processes
- Revising identification of proper puncture sites
- Expanding patient positioning instructions
- Updating figures
- Updating references

NOTE: The content of this standard is supported by the CLSI consensus process and does not necessarily reflect the views of any single individual or organization.

KEY WORDS

Arterialization
Blood
Capillary
Finger
Heel
Incision
Lancet
Microcollection
Puncture
Warming

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Chapter 1

Introduction

This chapter includes:

- Standard's scope and applicable exclusions
- Standard precautions information
- Terminology information, including:
  - Terms and definitions used in the standard
  - Abbreviations and acronyms used in the standard

Collection of Capillary Blood Specimens

1 Introduction

1.1 Scope

This standard describes the process and related procedures for collecting diagnostic capillary blood specimens, including capillary blood gases. It is intended for health care professionals responsible for obtaining specimens from patients, as well as for manufacturers of capillary puncture and incision devices and microcollection containers. GP42 also establishes requirements for single-use disposable devices for collecting, processing, and transferring capillary blood specimens, including those for point-of-care testing. This standard does not cover capillary puncture procedures for self-testing, nor does it cover procedures for point-of-care testing.

1.2 Standard Precautions

Because it is often impossible to know what isolates or specimens might be infectious, all patient and laboratory specimens are treated as infectious and handled according to "standard precautions." Standard precautions are guidelines that combine the major features of "universal precautions and body substance isolation" practices. Standard precautions cover the transmission of all known infectious agents and thus are more comprehensive than universal precautions, which are intended to apply only to transmission of bloodborne pathogens. Published guidelines are available that discuss the daily operations of diagnostic medicine in humans and animals while encouraging a culture of safety in the laboratory.[1] For specific precautions for preventing the laboratory transmission of all known infectious agents from laboratory instruments and materials and for recommendations for the management of exposure to all known infectious diseases, refer to CLSI document M29.[2]

1.3 Terminology

CLSI, as a global leader in standardization, is firmly committed to achieving global harmonization whenever possible. Harmonization is a process of recognizing, understanding, and explaining differences while taking steps to achieve worldwide uniformity. CLSI recognizes that medical conventions in the global metrological community have evolved differently in different countries and regions and that legally required use of terms, regional usage, and different consensus timelines are all important considerations in the harmonization process. CLSI recognizes its important role in these efforts, and its consensus process focuses on harmonization of terms to facilitate the global application of standards and guidelines. Table 1 is provided to clarify the intended interpretations of the following terms.

Table 1. Common Terms or Phrases With Intended Interpretations

Term or Phrase	Intended Interpretation
"Needs to" or "must"	Explains an action directly related to fulfilling a regulatory and/or accreditation requirement or is indicative of a necessary step to ensure patient safety or proper fulfillment of a procedure
"Require"	Represents a statement that directly reflects a regulatory, accreditation, performance, product, or organizational requirement or a requirement or specification identified in an approved documentary standard
"Should"	Describes a recommendation provided in laboratory literature, a statement of good laboratory practice, or a suggestion for how to meet a requirement