CLINICAL AND LABORATORY STANDARDS INSTITUTE®

8th Edition

CLSI PRE02™

Collection of Diagnostic Venous Blood Specimens

CLSI PRE02 provides procedures for the collection of diagnostic venous blood specimens, including line draws, blood culture collection, and venipuncture in children.

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

Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute

Setting the standard for quality in medical laboratory testing around the world.

The Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI) is a not-for-profit membership organization that brings together the varied perspectives and expertise of the worldwide laboratory community for the advancement of a common cause: to foster excellence in laboratory medicine by developing and implementing medical laboratory standards and guidelines that help laboratories fulfill their responsibilities with efficiency, effectiveness, and global applicability.

Consensus Process

Consensus—the substantial agreement by materially affected, competent, and interested parties—is core to the development of all CLSI documents. It does not always connote unanimous agreement but does mean that the participants in the development of a consensus document have considered and resolved all relevant objections and accept the resulting agreement.

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CLSI documents undergo periodic evaluation and modification to keep pace with advances in technologies, procedures, methods, and protocols affecting the laboratory or health care.

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Do you use CLSI documents in your workplace? Do you see room for improvement? Would you like to get involved in the revision process? Or maybe you see a need to develop a new document for an emerging technology? CLSI wants to hear from you. We are always looking for volunteers. By donating your time and talents to improve the standards that affect your own work, you will play an active role in improving public health across the globe.

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

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Collection of Diagnostic Venous Blood Specimens

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Abstract

Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute PRE02—*Collection of Diagnostic Venous Blood Specimens* provides a descriptive, stepwise process and procedures reflecting the quality system essentials format for diagnostic venous blood specimen collection. Special considerations for collections from vascular access devices, blood culture collection, and collections in isolation environments are included, as well as how to handle emergency situations. An expanded appendix section provides helpful tips for collecting specimens from pediatric and other challenging patients.

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Committee Membership

Consensus Council

The Consensus Council sets priorities for CLSI standards development and votes on Final Draft documents to confirm that process requirements have been met. Consensus Council members are listed on the CLSI website: https://clsi.org/standards-development/consensus-council/

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Expert Panel volunteers support the development of CLSI documents by providing technical expertise in specialty areas. Expert Panel members are listed by area of expertise on the CLSI website: https://clsi.org/standards-development/expert-panels/

Acknowledgment

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Contents

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Foreword

During the collection and handling of blood specimens, numerous errors can occur that pose significant and avoidable risks to the patient and the health care professional. When global standards are not implemented, it is more likely that patients will be injured during the procedure, biologically representative specimens will not be obtained from patients, and test results will not be comparable from one facility to another or between visits for the patient.

The process and procedures detailed in CLSI PRE02 are intended to prevent specimen collection errors that threaten specimen quality, protect health care professionals from accidental exposure, and protect patients from the injuries, complications, and medical mistakes that can result from improperly collected specimens.

Since 1977, CLSI has recognized the importance of the preexamination phase of laboratory testing, including correct blood specimen collection and handling. Highly sophisticated testing technology cannot produce a good result from a poorly collected specimen.

Overview of Changes

CLSI PRE02-Ed8 replaces CLSI GP41-Ed7, published in 2017. Several changes were made in this edition, including:

- Removing duplicate information (ie, that included in CLSI PRE01[1])
- Harmonizing content with other CLSI preexamination documents
- Updating references

NOTE: The content of CLSI PRE02 is supported by the CLSI consensus process and does not necessarily reflect the views of any single individual or organization.

KEY WORDS

antecubital anatomy
blood specimen
complications from phlebotomy
patient identification
phlebotomist
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