

No./Title: RS107 – Phlebotomy	Resp. Office: RESEARCH SAFETY AFFAIRS	Effective Date: 11/17/2021
Category: Safety	Last Review: NEW	Next Review: 11/30/2024
Contact: Tim Barton, Director of Research Safety Affairs	☎ 901.448.6114	✉ tbarton4@uthsc.edu
Related Policies: GS5200 – Exposure Control Plan		

PURPOSE, SCOPE AND APPLICABILITY

This document establishes the procedure for phlebotomy performed by UTHSC faculty, staff, students, residents and fellows in activities covered by the UTHSC Office of Research. This procedure is applicable to UTHSC employees at all campus, affiliate locations or non-UTHSC sites including but not limited to Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital, Methodist Healthcare facilities, and Regional One Health facilities.

BACKGROUND

Phlebotomy involves using a needle to take blood from a vein, usually from an arm. It is also called a blood draw or venipuncture. Phlebotomy is an important tool for diagnosing medical conditions and may be performed to collect material for use in research studies approved by the UTHSC Institutional Review Board. The collection of blood may involve risk to the individual from whom the blood is being collected. To minimize this risk phlebotomy may only be performed by qualified practitioners that meet the requirements established in this procedure.

PROCEDURE

Employees performing phlebotomy must have phlebotomy listed in their Position Description (PD). UTHSC personnel performing phlebotomy must be qualified practitioners as described in Tennessee Annotated Code TCA 55-10-406. This includes individuals with the following qualifications:

- Physicians,
- Registered nurse,
- Licensed practical nurse,
- Clinical laboratory technician,
- Licensed paramedic,
- Licensed emergency medical technician approved to establish intravenous catheters, or technologist,

- Certified or nationally registered phlebotomist

UTHSC employees whose job responsibilities involve potential exposure to human blood or other potentially infectious human materials (e.g., saliva, sputum, urine, etc.) must comply with the requirements and work practices expressed in the UTHSC Exposure Control Plan (GS5200).

DOCUMENTATION

Supervisors must maintain documentation verifying the credentials of individuals performing phlebotomy.