Blood Draw

PROCEDURE

STEPS

1. Choose an appropriate site, with a backup site in mind
2. Gather supplies and assemble
3. Use aseptic technique
4. Draw slowly with a syringe, to prevent hemolysis
5. Label the sample: patient name, date of birth, date and time obtained, obtained by, medic number
6. Order of draw: 1st — Chemistry; 2nd — CBC

DOCUMENT IT

- Law enforcement blood draw: on scene of incident only, and only where the patient is receiving medical care
- Document the arresting officer's name and badge number

BEFORE YOU START

- Indications: cardiac patients; suspected stroke; ALS trauma patients
- Any patient needing blood drawn and an IV established
- Precautions: avoid dialysis shunts; avoid extremities with injuries proximal to the insertion site

KIT YOU NEED

- Blood draw supplies and Mercy EMS prehospital lab sample labels
- Law enforcement draws: LEO-supplied vacutainer (gray top) and chloraprep

IF IT GOES WRONG

- Complications: hematoma, arterial puncture, infection

Take Home Message:

Aseptic technique, a slow syringe draw to avoid hemolysis, a complete label — chemistry first, then CBC.