



## Copley Hospital, Inc. Laboratory Services Directory

### FINGERSTICK COLLECTIONS

1. Gloves are mandatory for this procedure.
2. Choose a finger that is not cold, cyanotic or swollen. If the patient's hands are cold, wrap one of them in a warm to hot towel or washcloth for 10 to 15 minutes before the puncture is performed. The puncture should be at the tip of the fourth or ring finger of the non-dominant hand.
3. Gently massage the finger five or six times from base to tip to aid blood flow.
4. With alcohol swab, cleanse the ball of the finger. Allow to completely air dry or wipe with clean gauze.
5. Remove the lancet from its package without touching the tip.
6. Hold the patient's finger firmly with one hand and make a swift, deep puncture with the lancet halfway between the center of the ball of the finger and its side.
7. The cut should be made perpendicular to the finger prints to produce a large round drop of blood. Allow blood droplets to form and drip into the microsample tubes, without the tube coming in contact with the finger. A free flowing puncture is essential to obtain accurate test results. Do not use excessive squeezing to obtain blood.
8. Wipe the first drop of blood away with clean gauze.
9. Gently massage the finger from base to tip to obtain the proper amount of blood for the tests required, but **DO NOT SQUEEZE**.
10. Each type of microsample has a different collection tube and blood volume requirement.
11. Dispose of lancet in a puncture proof container.
12. Label the blood tubes at the patient's side with first and last name, and date of birth. (Two identifiers are required for acceptable labeling.)