



OSCE Checklist: Venepuncture

Introduction	
1	Gather equipment
2	Wash your hands using alcohol gel. If your hands are visibly soiled, wash them with soap and water. Don PPE if appropriate.
3	Introduce yourself to the patient including your name and role
4	Confirm the patient's name and date of birth
5	Briefly explain what the procedure will involve using patient-friendly language
6	Gain consent to proceed with venepuncture
7	Check if the patient has any allergies
8	Adequately expose the patient's arms for the procedure
9	Position the patient so that they are sitting comfortably
10	Ask the patient if they have any pain before continuing with the clinical procedure
Preparation	
11	Choose an arm you to perform venepuncture on and place a pillow under it
Choosing a vein	
12	Inspect the patient's arm for an appropriate venepuncture site
13	Apply the tourniquet approximately 4-5 finger-widths above the planned venepuncture site
14	Palpate the vein you have identified to assess if it is suitable
15	Once you have identified a suitable vein you may need to temporarily release the tourniquet
16	Wash your hands again
17	Don gloves
18	Clean the site with an alcohol swab for 30 seconds and then allow to dry completely for 30 seconds
Insertion of the needle	
19	Re-apply the tourniquet if removed previously and attach the needle to the barrel
20	Unsheathe the needle
21	Anchor the vein from below with your non-dominant hand by gently pulling on the skin distal to the insertion site
22	Warn the patient that they will experience a sharp scratch
23	Insert the needle through the skin at a 30-degree angle or less, with the bevel facing upwards
24	Advance the needle a further 1-2 mm into the vein after flashback is noted to ensure you are within the lumen
25	Lower and anchor the needle to the patient's skin using the wings of the butterfly needle

26	Attach each blood bottle, in the correct order of draw, to the barrel and allow them to fill to the appropriate level	
27	Release the tourniquet	
28	Withdraw the needle and then apply gentle pressure to the site with some gauze or cotton wool	
29	Ask the patient to hold the gauze or cotton wool in place whilst you dispose of the needle into a sharps container	
30	Apply a dressing to the patient's arm	
31	Invert each of the blood bottles the suggested number of times based on its colour	
32	Discard the used equipment into the appropriate clinical waste bin	
To complete the procedure...		
33	Explain to the patient that the procedure is now complete and that they should seek review if the venepuncture site becomes painful or inflamed	
34	Thank the patient for their time	
35	Document the patient's details on the blood sample bottles at the bedside (either pre-printed labels or handwritten)	
36	Dispose of PPE appropriately and wash your hands	
37	Send the blood samples to the lab for analysis in an appropriate plastic leak-proof bag with the completed laboratory request form	

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