Avoiding Phlebotomy-Related Lawsuits, 2nd Edition
P.A.C.E.® Continuing Education Exam

Choose the one best answer to the questions or statements below

1. According to CLSI standards, what is the proper angle of insertion for venipuncture?
   a. 45 degrees or less
   b. 30 degrees or less
   c. 15 degrees
   d. 90 degrees

2. Venipunctures to veins on the anterior (front) side of the wrist:
   a. should only be attempted with 23g or smaller butterfly devices
   b. may be attempted when no veins are available in the antecubital area
   c. is acceptable if the veins are both visible and palpable
   d. should never be attempted due to the close proximity to nerves and tendons

3. The vein of first choice for venipuncture should be the:
   a. median cubital
   b. basilic
   c. cephalic
d. hand veins

4. The vein that should be the last choice for venipuncture is the:
   a. median cubital
   b. basilic
   c. cephalic
   d. hand veins

5. The structures that are most often injured during venipuncture that can lead to permanent injury are:
   a. capillaries
   b. tendons
   c. bones
   d. nerves and arteries

6. It is important for those who draw blood to know that punctures to the basilic vein:
   a. pose the least risk of nerve and artery injury
   b. pose the highest risk of nerve and artery injury
   c. is the vein of choice for most venipunctures
   d. A & C

7. According to CLSI standards, proper patient identification consists of:
   a. asking patients to state his/her name and birth date and compare it with the requisition and patient’s armband
   b. comparing the information on the requisition with information on the labels
c. comparing the information on the requisition with information on the patient’s armband

d. ask the patient to affirm his/her name and compare that with the information on the requisition

8. If a patient remarks that they have a tendency to faint during venipuncture procedures, the phlebotomist must:

a. make sure ammonia inhalants are available in the draw area

b. ask the patient if they want to lay down for the procedure

c. document this on the paperwork or electronic patient record

d. insist the patient recline for the procedure and carefully assess the patient before dismissing him/her

9. According to CLSI standards, labels must be applied to specimen collection tubes:

a. when the tubes arrive in the laboratory

b. just before entering the patient’s room so all supplies are ready for use

c. at the patient’s side while preparing the supplies for the procedure

d. after the tubes are filled while at the patient’s side

10. The Standard of Care can be defined as:

a. a procedure as it is generally carried out at the health care professional’s facility

b. a procedure as it is taught to the health care professional during training

c. what a reasonable and prudent health care professional would have done under similar circumstances

d. what a national certification agency defines as an appropriate procedure
11. How might a phlebotomist avoid involvement in a phlebotomy-related lawsuit?
   a. make sure their malpractice insurance is kept current
   b. learn to draw blood according to the standards and apply this knowledge every time he/she collects a blood sample
   c. ask a fellow health care worker to do the draw if it appears the collection will be difficult
   d. only perform venipunctures on veins that are visible

12. During a venipuncture, which of the following symptoms indicates a nerve has been provoked by the needle?
   a. the patient experiences sudden shooting, electric-like pain
   b. bright red blood rapidly fills the tube
   c. hematoma formation occurs at the site
   d. the patient reports feeling light-headed

13. What action should a phlebotomist take if a patient exhibits the symptoms of nerve provocation?
   a. complete the draw if the tube is filling with blood, then withdraw the needle
   b. pull back slightly on the needle and try relocating it
   c. terminate the puncture immediately
   d. ask the patient to hold very still until the draw is complete

14. What structures are found in the antecubital area near the basilic vein?
   a. the brachial artery and median antebrachial cutaneous nerves
   b. the femoral artery and nerve
   c. the radial artery and nerve
d. the carotid artery and median antebrachial cutaneous nerves

15. What can occur if a nick to an artery goes undetected?

a. scar tissue will form at the puncture site
b. the artery will eventually seal and bleeding will stop within 5 minutes
c. a small hematoma would form around the area of the puncture and subsequent draws to that area must be avoided
d. uncontrolled hemorrhaging into the surrounding tissues, causing injury to nerves and other surrounding structures

16. If the brachial artery is accidentally nicked, what action must be taken?

a. apply clean gauze to the area and have the patient bend his/her arm up at the elbow to stop the bleeding
b. apply firm pressure to the puncture site for at least five minutes or until hemostasis is complete. Notify nursing staff and physician and document the incident
c. place clean gauze on the site, secure with hypoallergenic tape and instruct the patient to keep the bandage in place for at least 15 minutes
d. apply clean gauze to the puncture site and maintain mild pressure for one minute. Notify nursing staff and physician and document the incident

17. The procedure for post-venipuncture care is:

a. place clean gauze over the puncture site and apply mild pressure. Before bandaging, observe the site for continued bleeding or hematoma formation. Bandage and release the patient when hemostasis is complete
b. apply clean gauze over the puncture site and ask the patient to bend his/her arm up to put pressure on the site, then bandage and release the patient
c. place clean gauze over the puncture site and secure with hypoallergenic
tape or other appropriate means, then release the patient

d. place clean gauze over the puncture site and apply mild pressure. When the bleeding has stopped, discard the gauze and release the patient