W hen a patient’s veins are small or fragile, a syringe draw can mean the difference between collection success and a failed attempt. To prevent injury and assure a quality sample, needles and syringes should be used with special consideration. So, how safe and successful are you with a syringe? Take the true/false quiz below to find out:

Syringe draws can put me at increased risk for occupational exposure to bloodborne pathogens.  
**True or False?**

Safety needles are required not only when I draw with an evacuated tube system, but also when using a needle and syringe.  
**True or False?**

The sizes of both the needle and syringe I select are important.  
**True or False?**

Prior to use, I always follow the syringe manufacturer’s instructions i.e., breaking the seal on the plunger, expelling all air from the barrel, etc.  
**True or False?**

To avoid frothing of the sample, I make sure the needle is securely fitted on the syringe.  
**True or False?**

To prevent hemolyzing the sample during collection, I’m careful not to pull back too forcibly on the plunger.  
**True or False?**

I never leave the blood collected in the syringe barrel for an extended period of time.  
**True or False?**

Before filling tubes, I activate the needle’s safety device, remove and discard the needle and attach a safety transfer device.  
**True or False?**

I adhere to the proper order of draw and fill volumes for all collection tubes/bottles.  
**True or False?**

I never fill tubes by stabbing through the tube stoppers with the same needle used to draw the sample.  
**True or False?**

If you answered “**True**” to all 10 statements, **CONGRATULATIONS!** You obviously know your stuff about syringe draws.

If you answered “**False**” to any statement, consider recalibrating your collection method against the CLSI standards and facility policy. Practice the truths listed above and they will make you free from unnecessary recollections and a heightened risk of exposure to bloodborne pathogens.