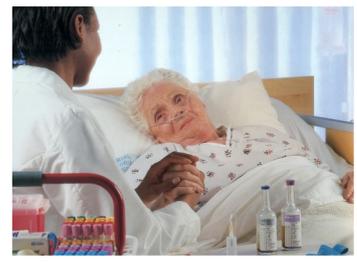


## Best Practices in Blood Culture Collection



*Stop Sepsis - start with Best Practices in blood culturing.*

## NEEDLE-STICK INJURY & SAFETY-LOK BLOOD COLLECTION SET

The drawing of blood has been practised for centuries and is still one of the most common invasive procedures in health care. Each step in the process of phlebotomy affects the quality of the specimen and is thus important for preventing laboratory error, patient injury and even death. For example, the touch of a finger to verify the location of a vein before insertion of the needle increases the chance that a specimen will be contaminated. This can cause false blood culture results, prolong hospitalization, delay diagnosis and cause unnecessary use of antibiotics. Jostling and jarring of test tubes in transit can lyse or break open red blood cells, causing false laboratory results. Clerical errors in completing forms and identifying patients are common, costly and preventable. Other adverse effects for patients are common; they include bruising at the site of puncture, fainting, nerve damage and haematomas.<sup>1</sup>

Phlebotomy also poses risks for health care workers. It is still common to see a phlebotomist carry out dangerous practices known to increase the risk of needle-stick injury and transmission of disease. Dangerous practices include:

- recapping used needles using two hands;
- recapping and disassembling vacuum-containing tubes and holders;
- reusing tourniquets and vacuum-tube holders that may be contaminated with bacteria and sometimes blood;

- working alone with confused or disoriented patients who may move unexpectedly, contributing to needle-sticks.<sup>1</sup>

Phlebotomy involves the use of large, hollow needles that have been in a blood vessel. The needles can carry a large volume of blood that, in the event of an accidental puncture, may be more likely to transmit disease than other sharps. Bloodborne organisms that have been transmitted after needle-sticks include viruses such as hepatitis B and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), bacteria such as syphilis and parasites such as malaria.<sup>1</sup>

Injuries from sharps (i.e. items such as needles that have corners, edge or projection capable of cutting or piercing the skin) commonly occur between the used and disposal of the needle or similar device. One way to reduce accidental injury and blood exposure among health care workers is to replace device with safety (i.e. engineered) devices. Safety devices can avoid up to 75% of percutaneous injuries. Eliminating needle recapping and instead immediately dispose of the sharps into a puncture-resistant sharps container (i.e. safety container) markedly reduces needle-stick injuries.<sup>1</sup> A study evaluated the role of safety-engineered devices (SEDs) in preventing needle-stick injuries in 32 French Hospitals and demonstrated significantly lower needle-stick injury rate and the most important preventive factor when SEDs were used.<sup>2</sup>

The BD Vacutainer Safety-Lok™ Blood Collection Set is simple, easy to use and is safety-engineered. The safety mechanism can be activated immediately after the blood draw and helps protect against needle-stick injury. It is also offered with a pre-attached holder for added convenience and to help ensure OSHA single-use holder compliance.

## Convenience

### because practicing safety should be simple

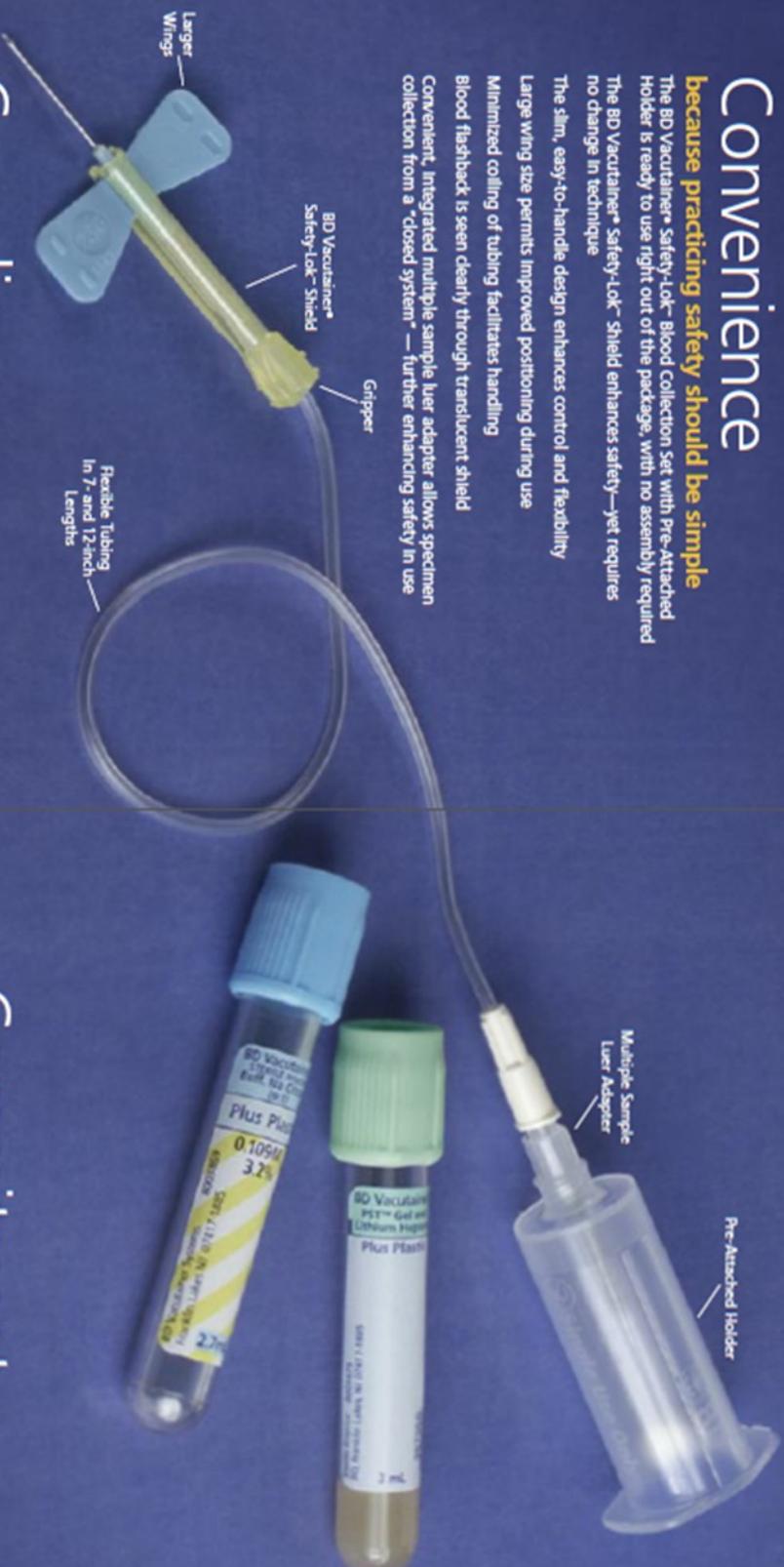
The BD Vacutainer® Safety-Lok™ Blood Collection Set with Pre-Attached Holder is ready to use right out of the package, with no assembly required. The BD Vacutainer® Safety-Lok™ shield enhances safety—yet requires no change in technique.

The slim, easy-to-handle design enhances control and flexibility. Large wing size permits improved positioning during use.

Minimized coiling of tubing facilitates handling.

Blood flashback is seen clearly through translucent shield.

Convenient, integrated multiple sample luer adapter allows specimen collection from a “closed system” — further enhancing safety in use.



## Compliance

### because your focus should be on your patient

The BD Vacutainer® Safety-Lok™ Blood Collection Set with Pre-Attached Holder is designed to help your institution comply with OSHA single-use holder directive OSHA 5118 10-15-03, by reducing the risk of holder reuse.

The BD Vacutainer® Safety-Lok™ Blood Collection Set with Pre-Attached Holder provides the assurance that the number of holders will always equal the number of safety-Lok™ Blood Collection Sets.

The protective shield is designed to help your institution meet current Federal OSHA safety standards for engineering controls.

©1999 Federal OSHA Compliance Directive

## Commitment

### because your product should be reliable

The BD Vacutainer® Safety-Lok™ Blood Collection Set with Pre-Attached Holder protects the healthcare worker from nonpatient-end needle exposure.

The Safety-Lok™ Shield reduces needlestick risk throughout the hospital, for both hospital personnel and patients.

After use, the needle can be easily and completely covered by the protective shield and securely locked in place.

Improved safety from activation of the safety shield through final disposal in an approved sharps collector—may help reduce long-term costs of needlestick injuries.

## **References:**

1. WHO Guidelines on Drawing Blood: Best Practices in Phlebotomy. ISBN 978 92 4 159922 1 (NLM classification: WB 381) © WHO Health Organisation 2010.
2. F. Lamontagne, MD, MSc; D. Abiteboul, MD; I. Lolom, MSc; G. Pellissier, PhD; A. Tarantola, MD, MSc; J. M. Descamps, MD; E. Bouvet, MD. Role of Safety-Engineered Devices in Preventing Needlestick Injuries in 32 French Hospitals. Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology January 2007, Vol. 28, No. 1.



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