

# Tip of the Month



## Ten Truths about Syringe Draws

**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:

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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?*

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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