

Phlebotomist

Phlebotomists draw blood for tests, transfusions, research, or blood donations.

Phlebotomists typically do the following:

- Draw blood from patients and blood donors
- Talk with patients and donors to help them feel less nervous about having their blood drawn
- Verify a patient's or donor's identity to ensure proper labeling of the blood
- Label the drawn blood for testing or processing
- Enter patient information into a database
- Assemble and maintain medical instruments such as needles, test tubes, and blood vials
- Keep work areas clean and sanitary

Phlebotomists primarily draw blood, which is then used for different kinds of medical laboratory testing. In medical and diagnostic laboratories, patient interaction is sometimes only with the phlebotomist. Because all blood samples look the same, Phlebotomists must carefully identify and label the sample they have drawn and enter it into a database. Some Phlebotomists draw blood for other purposes, such as at blood drives where people donate blood. In order to avoid causing infection or other complications, phlebotomists must keep their work area and instruments clean and sanitary.

Work Environment

Phlebotomists work mainly in hospitals, medical and diagnostic laboratories, blood donor centers, and doctors' offices.

Watch a video about being a Phlebotomist

Top Local Employers: Quest Diagnostics, Aerotek, Bio-Reference Laboratories, Laboratory Corporation of America, American Red Cross

Median Pay

\$50,385

Job Growth (2020-2025)

18%

Education and Training

Phlebotomists typically enter the occupation with a postsecondary nondegree award from a Phlebotomy program. Almost all employers look for Phlebotomists who have earned professional certification.

Local Education:

City College San Francisco

De Anza College

For More Information

Bureau of Labor Statistics

National Phlebotomy Association

California Department of Health, Laboratory Field Services



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