

Community Service Reflection: Phlebotomy

Entering the parking lot of Southwest Diagnostic I remember thinking to myself I am so excited to have the opportunity to learn more about phlebotomy and interact with the community. The staff was very welcoming and everyone was so kind and excited that I was there. This particular morning they were having a breakfast gathering so they offered me breakfast and we talked a little about my nursing experience.

After, about 0830 we begin to start the day and it was a constant steady busy. I learned so much within my first two hours. My phlebotomist had over 32 years of experience so he taught me many tips and tricks for getting a perfect lab draw. I was able to interact with every patient we came in contact with. We sat and talked to a lady from England for about twenty minutes and she told us how she ended up in Lubbock, Tx from England and how she opens her home to travel nurses to stay with her while they are here on assignments.

Before every patient encounter we verify name and date of birth to ensure we had the correct patient along with double checking our orders to make sure we had the right color tubs for the lab draw. I started with hand hygiene and introducing myself to the patient along with asking permission as a student to either watch and observe the phlebotomist or to draw their labs. I was so excited that the patient were very kind and welcoming and allowed me to be part of there lab draw.

I learned so much from my preceptor one thing I learned that I will take forward with me in my nursing career. Is how to properly find veins on elderly patient and dehydrated patients. My preceptors showed me a way to use my non dominant hand to feel for the vein, then anchor the vein and aim you needle in the direction of the vein making sure not to go to far through the vein with my dominant hand. This allows me to not only access the vein every stick but it also allowed less stress for the patient by not having to be poked multiple times.

