

Supplementary Table 1. Survey questions translated into English from Lithuanian

Q1	What is your sex?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Male• Female
Q2	What is your education level?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Professional Bachelor's degree• Bachelor's degree• Master's degree
Q3	What is your Professional title?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• General practice nurse• Community nurse• Anaesthesia and intensive care nurse• Mental health nurse• Operating room nurse• Obstetrician (nurse)• Biomedical technician
Q4	What is your work experience?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ≤ 5 years• 6–10 years• 11–15 years• ≥ 20 years
Q5	Is there a designated standard operating procedure for venous blood collection using a vacuum system in the healthcare facility where you work?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Available• Not aware if available or not• Not Available
Q6	When was the last time you participated in training on venous blood collection?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ≤ 1 year ago• 2–4 years ago• ≥ 5 years ago• Never attended such training
Q7	What is the purpose of a tourniquet?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To highlight veins• To improve blood flow into the tube• Both options
Q8	What reasons lead to you not asking whether the patient has prepared appropriately for venous blood collection? [†]
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There is usually no need to prepare for the prescribed tests• I am not aware of the factors about which I should inquire• The patient's preparation does not affect the results of laboratory tests

Q9	<p>Do you identify the patient before venous blood collection?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Always* • Sometimes • Never
Q10	<p>How do you most commonly identify the patient? (multi-choice)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I ask the patient if their name and surname match the details on the requisition form • I inquire about the patient's name and surname, and then compare their response with the information provided on the requisition form* • I verify the data by requesting the patient's identification document*
Q11	<p>When do you identify the blood collection tubes?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Before collecting blood in front of the patient* • After collecting blood in front of the patient* • Before or after collecting blood when there is no patient
Q12	<p>When you identify venous blood collection tubes away from the patient, do you verify that the tube has been correctly identified in front of the patient? ‡</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Always* • Sometimes • Never • I identify the tubes after blood is collected and the patient is absent, so there is no opportunity for additional verification at the patient's side
Q13	<p>Before venipuncture, do you always ask the patient about when they last ate, drank anything other than water, or took any medications (and which ones), or do you assess other factors that may affect the test result?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Always* • Sometimes • Never
Q14	<p>Do you prepare the necessary tools and equipment before venipuncture, taking into account the specific laboratory tests requested?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes* • No
Q15	<p>Do you wear medical gloves during venipuncture?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Always* • Sometimes • Never
Q16	<p>Where do you most often tie the tourniquet?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two fingers of the forearm above the puncture site (~3.5 cm) • Four fingers of the forearm above the puncture site (~7.5 cm)* • It is important to tie above the puncture site, but the exact distance is not critical
Q17	<p>How long, on average, do you leave the tourniquet in place?</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not longer than 1 minute.* • Not longer than 2 minutes. • Until the end of the venous blood collection procedure.
Q18	<p>Do you ask the patient to make a fist or squeeze and release the fist a few times to help visualize the veins more clearly?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Always • Often • Sometimes • Never*
Q19	<p>If it takes longer than 1 minute to find a suitable vein after applying the tourniquet, do you stop the procedure and look for a suitable vein in the other arm?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Always* • Sometimes • Never
Q20	<p>Do you always wait for the disinfectant used for puncture site disinfection to dry before performing venipuncture?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Always* • Sometime • Never
Q21	<p>At what angle do you usually insert the needle into the vein?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5-30°* • > 30 – ≤ 45° • >45°
Q22	<p>When do you release the tourniquet?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When the blood starts to flow into the first tube* • After taking all the venous blood samples • When taking venous blood, I don't use a tourniquet
Q23	<p>If you need to collect several different blood samples from a patient, which tube would you use first?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The tube for the complete blood count • The tube for biochemical tests (serum) • The tube for coagulation tests*
Q24	<p>How often do you mix blood by inverting the tube after filling it?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Always* • Sometimes • Never
Q25	<p>How many times should the tube be inverted at a 180° angle for it to be considered that the blood is adequately mixed?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 3 times • At least 4 times • At least 5 times*

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You don't need to mix
Q26	How long after taking the blood do you recommend the patient to keep the puncture site compressed?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> < 2 minutes 2-4 minutes > 4 minutes
Q27	If venous blood was obtained from the veins in the cubital fossa, would you advise the patient to maintain compression at the puncture site by bending the arm at the elbow?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes No*
Q28	Do you recommend the patient to sit (lie down) and rest for at least 5 minutes after the blood is taken?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Always* Sometimes Never
Q29	How often do you specify the exact time and date for blood collection in the test order?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Always* Sometimes Never

*This stated practice was deemed to be in accordance with the recommendations of

EFLM-COLABIOCLI; †The question was posed exclusively to respondents who

indicated non-compliance with Q5; ‡The question was posed exclusively to

respondents who indicated non-compliance with Q3. EFLM-COLABIOCLI - European

Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine and the Latin American

Confederation of Clinical Biochemistry.