

Mayo Clinic Minute: The vital role of phlebotomists in blood collection

Video	Audio
	<p>If you've ever had to get blood collected for testing, there's a good chance a phlebotomist was the person to collect the sample. Phlebotomists play a crucial role in ensuring the right specimens are collected for the lab.</p>
<p>Fiona Craig, M.D. Laboratory Medicine and Pathology Mayo Clinic</p>	<p>"All of our testing relies on having the right specimen collected in the right way. So I think phlebotomists are really the foundation of our clinical practice."</p>
	<p>Dr. Fiona Craig, who oversees laboratory medicine and pathology, says identifying a vein to collect a sample from is truly a skill.</p>
	<p>"It's also important for them to be able to feel a vein — feel that it's big enough — and it's not going to roll away from the needle during the collection. And that's a skill that they get during their initial training and certification, but then hone it over many years with experience with patients."</p>
	<p>This expertise is not only crucial during routine blood draws, it's also invaluable during challenging collections.</p>
	<p>"When we have a difficult collection, some of our phlebotomists who've been with us for many years are the ones who are sent to help with that procedure. So it's a very, very important skill that they acquire, and we really couldn't run a hospital without them."</p>
	<p>For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I'm DeeDee Stiepan.</p>