

## Guideline

Subject: **Consent for Venepuncture**  
Approval Date: July 2001, August 2006, November 2013, January 2017  
Review Date: January 2021  
Review By: Haematology AC  
Number: 5/2001

---

The Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia considers that pathology laboratories should provide the following advice to patients who present for venepuncture. This advice is based on the assumption that the requesting doctor has already discussed the reasons why blood tests need to be performed and which tests are to be undertaken.

The Pathology Specimen Collector should:

1. Explain to the patient what is involved in taking a blood specimen.
2. Explain the potential side effects such as minor bruising and tenderness.
3. Address any queries and establish if the patient is willing to proceed with blood collection.

The College does not consider formal written consent is required. The patient, in agreeing to have blood taken has provided implied consent.