**Phlebotomy**

Phlebotomy is the act of drawing or removing blood from the circulatory system the circulatory system through a cut (incision)or puncture in order to obtain a sample for analysis and diagnosis. Phlebotomy is also done as part of the patient’s treatment for certain blood disorders.

Purpose:

* It is a part of treatment for polycythemia
* It is also prescribed for patients with disorders that increase the amount of iron in their blood to dangerous levels, such s hemochromatosis, hepatitis B, and hepatitis C.
* Patients with pulmonary edema may undergo phlebotomy procedures to decrease their total blood volume.
* It is also used to remove blood from the body during blood donation and for analysis of the substance contained within it.

A person who performs phlebotomy is called a phlebotomist, although doctors, nurse,and medical laboratory technicians.

Procedure: Blood is usually taken from a vein on the back of the hand or just below the elbow.

The skin over the area is wiped with an antiseptic and elastic band is tied around the arm. The band