

BUTTERFLY NEEDLE PATIENT HANDOUT

At our collection centres, we strive to provide the safest and most efficient experience for all our patients. We understand that many people request butterfly needles, particularly if they've had good experiences with them in the past. However, in most cases, a vacutainer needle is the better option.

Faster and more efficient

Vacutainer needles allow for quicker blood draws, which is especially important for larger volume collections. They also reduce the risk of clotting and ensure that your sample is processed without delay.

Better sample quality

With a vacutainer needle, there's a lower risk of haemolysis, the breaking down of red blood cells. Haemolysis can affect the accuracy of test results and sometimes requires a return visit to the laboratory for an additional blood test, which can mean more time, discomfort and inconvenience for you.

Reduced cost and environmental impact

Butterfly needles are more expensive and produce more waste. By choosing a vacutainer needle, you're helping us to allocate resources more effectively while reducing the environmental impact from medical waste.

Lower risk of complications

Vacutainer needles are safer for phlebotomists and patients alike. The design of a vacutainer needle reduces the risk of needlestick injuries and sample contamination, ensuring a smoother, safer collection process.

Reserved for special cases

Butterfly needles are specially designed for people with fragile or difficult veins, such as young children, or those with certain medical conditions. Our phlebotomists are best placed to decide where these are needed as various factors can affect the veins including your level of hydration on the day. For most adults, a vacutainer needle is a better choice as it provides quicker and safer blood collection.

If you have any concerns or would like more information about why we recommend vacutainer needles, please reach out to us at hbay@awanuilabs.co.nz

Your safety, comfort, and the quality of your results are always our top priority!