

2. Assumptions:

- a. Regardless of how minor a procedure such as a venipuncture may seem to an adult health care worker, it represents a major threat to a child. One must consider the child's age, illness, developmental level, and previous experiences with venipunctures.
- b. Play is an important function of childhood whether the child is sick or well. Through play, children may act out fears, concerns, anger, and other behaviors they may not feel comfortable expressing to adults in a confrontational manner. Play is an important part of the hospitalized child's life, and it is a vehicle for promoting optimal development.
- c. It is important to have the blood drawn so that Dr. Lung may plan a therapeutic regimen; however, one must consider another issue: there appears to have been no advance preparation of the child's skin to minimize or prevent pain from the procedure. Regardless of the phlebotomist's skill in performing the procedure, it is also important to consider the fact that the negative repercussions for performing the procedure at this point may outweigh the positive benefits.
- d. All staff on the pediatric floor must be in agreement about respecting the child's personal space in the playroom and about adhering to unit policies or rules so that respect is maintained. Failure to