1. **Purpose:**

1.1 This document describes the step-by-step method of blood collection by finger prick procedure.

2. **Scope:**

2.1 This procedure is applied where small quantity of blood is required.

2.2 This document applies for HIV rapid testing.

3. **Responsibilities:**

3.1 Center / laboratory person is responsible for the collection of samples according to this document.

3.2 Officer / center incharge is responsible to implement this SOP.

4. **Materials and Equipment:**

4.1 Disposable gloves

4.2 Sharps disposal containers

4.3 Alcohol swabs

4.4 Sterile blood lancets

4.5 Cotton wool

4.6 10% household bleach

4.7 Capillary tubes or disposable Pasteur pipettes

5. **Procedure:**

5.1 Explain to the client about the procedure.

5.2 Wear disposable gloves and use aseptic technique for blood collection.

5.3 Position the client; he/she should sit in a chair and hyperextend his/her arm.

5.4 The best locations for a finger prick are the third and fourth fingers of the hand. Do not use the tip or the centre of the finger. Avoid the side of the finger.

5.5 Avoid puncturing a finger that is cold or blue, swollen, scarred or covered with a rash.

5.6 Warm the finger by wrapping a warm cloth during cold or by rubbing the finger with your hand.

5.7 Clean the finger prick site with an alcohol swab. Allow the alcohol to air dry completely before making the prick.
5.8 Use a sterile lancet. Full skin penetration by the tip of the lancet should be accomplished in order to obtain adequate blood flow for collection.

5.9 Make the skin puncture just off the centre of the finger pad.

5.10 With dry and clean cotton wool, wipe off the first drop of blood.

5.11 Gently massage the finger to allow a drop to form at the punctured site. Collect sufficient quantities of blood for the technique in question using the recommended equipment.

5.12 Have the patient hold a small ball of dry cotton wool over the puncture site for a few minutes to stop the bleeding.

6. Reporting:

6.1 In case of any mishap report to incharge of the center.