Venipuncture Reflection:

During my venipuncture lab experience, I learned the basic skills required for intravenous access before performing contrast-enhanced CT examinations. Although medical imaging technologists do not independently perform all aspects of IV insertion in every clinical setting, understanding the procedure is important for patient safety and effective communication with the healthcare team.

Before starting the procedure, I practiced proper preparation steps, including hand hygiene, wearing gloves, preparing the required equipment, identifying the patient, explaining the procedure, and ensuring patient comfort. I learned that being organized and familiar with the equipment is important because each step must be completed safely and efficiently. The main purpose of this procedure is to establish venous access so that contrast media can be administered during CT examinations.

One area that I performed well was following infection control and safety procedures. I made sure to wash my hands, use gloves, prepare clean equipment, and follow the correct sequence of steps. I also focused on communication and explaining the procedure to help reduce patient anxiety.

One challenge I experienced during the lab was inserting the needle at the correct angle. During my first attempts, I used an angle that was too steep, which affected the needle placement and caused difficulty with obtaining proper blood return. After practicing several times, I realized that I needed to use a lower angle and keep the needle closer to the surface of the skin. This helped me understand how important needle angle and hand control are for successful venipuncture.

The lab reinforced the importance of patient safety and infection control. Proper hand hygiene, correct patient identification, clean equipment, and careful handling of the IV site are necessary to prevent complications.

In the future, I want to improve my confidence and technique by practicing more with equipment setup and needle insertion. My goal is to become more comfortable with the steps, improve my hand positioning, and develop better control during IV catheter placement.