

Sierra – Sacramento Valley EMS Agency Program Policy

Prehospital Blood Draws

	Effective: 12/01/2017	Next Review: 11/2020	1108
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PURPOSE:

To allow Advanced EMT (AEMT) and paramedic personnel to perform prehospital venous blood draws on patients for medical reasons or for the purpose of chemical testing as indicated in this policy.

AUTHORITY:

- A. California Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, § 1797.220 and 1798.
- B. California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 3 & 4.
- C. California Code of Regulations, Title 17, § 1219.1.
- D. California Vehicle Code § 23158.

POLICY:

- A. When an agreement has been established with a receiving hospital, venous blood draws may be performed by AEMT or paramedic personnel for the following medical reasons:
 - 1. Suspected drug overdose.
 - 2. Unconscious patient, unknown cause.
 - 3. Suspected STEMI or stroke.
- B. At the direction of a peace officer, venous blood draws may be performed by paramedic personnel for the purpose of chemical testing from persons suspected of driving under the influence under the following circumstances:
 - 1. As indicated in California Vehicle Code, § 23158 (k), paramedic employees of a fire department are not approved to perform venous blood draws for the purpose of chemical testing.

2. Paramedic personnel shall not withdraw blood for this purpose unless authorized by his or her employer to do so.
3. An emergency call for EMS services takes precedence over a peace officer's request for a paramedic to withdraw blood.
4. At no time will a peace officer's request for a blood draw for the purpose of chemical testing take precedence over the medical treatment of a patient.

PROCEDURE:

- A. Select and utilize appropriate blood-drawing devices.
- B. If drawing blood from an IV, attach blood draw adapter to the hub of the IV catheter and draw blood sample immediately after establishing venous access, prior to IV fluid administration.
- C. If drawing blood without an IV, select vein and prep site with an appropriate disinfectant agent (note special instructions for chemical testing, as indicated under item H below).
- D. Allow tubes to fill under their own vacuum.
- E. Blood tubes for medical reasons shall be drawn in the following order:
 1. Blue.
 2. Red.
 3. Green.
 4. Purple.
- F. After drawing the blood, samples shall be labeled with the following minimum information:
 1. Patient name and date of birth.
 2. Date and time drawn.
 3. EMS unit number.
- G. Place filled/labeled tubes used for medical blood draws in an appropriate specimen collection bag and turn them over to the receiving RN when you arrive at the hospital.

H. Special procedures for drawing blood at the request of a peace officer for the purpose of chemical testing:

1. Suspects shall be in law enforcement custody and shall consent to the blood draw. If the suspect refuses or is unable to consent to the blood draw for any reason, the paramedic shall stop the procedure immediately and document such. Paramedics shall not draw blood on a struggling or restrained suspect. The suspect must be cooperative.
2. Blood draw kits shall be supplied by the requesting law enforcement agency.
3. The blood draw procedure will be performed based on standard practice listed in this policy with the following exception:
 - Alcohol or other volatile organic disinfectant shall not be used to clean the skin where a specimen is to be collected. Aqueous benzalkonium chloride (zephiran). Aqueous merthiolate or other suitable aqueous disinfectant (normally included in the blood draw kit supplied by law enforcement) shall be used.
4. The arresting officer must be present when the blood draw is performed.
5. The obtained blood sample will be the property of the arresting officer.

I. Documentation:

1. Blood draws performed on patients for medical reasons will be documented appropriately on the patient care record.
2. The following minimum information shall be documented on the patient care record for all blood draws performed on suspects for the purpose of chemical testing:
 - Incident number.
 - Date and time of incident.
 - Incident location or where the blood draw procedure is being performed (i.e. police station, etc.).
 - Suspect or patient name, age and gender.
 - Brief narrative including the requesting peace officers name and badge number, suspect's or patient's consent for the procedure, kit number, skin preparation used, and site of blood draw(s).