


Sierra – Sacramento Valley EMS Agency Program Policy

**Prehospital Blood Draws**

	Effective: 9/21/2021	Next Review: 09/2024	<b>1108</b>
	Approval: Troy M. Falck, MD – Medical Director		SIGNATURE ON FILE
	Approval: Victoria Pinette – Executive Director		SIGNATURE ON FILE

**PURPOSE:**

To allow AEMT and paramedic personnel to perform venous blood draws on patients for medical reasons or chemical testing.

**AUTHORITY:**

- A. HSC, Division 2.5, § 1797.220 and 1798.
- B. CCR, Title 22, Division 9, Chapter 3 & 4.
- C. CVC § 23158.

**POLICY:**

- A. Venous blood draws may be performed by AEMT or paramedic personnel on patients with a medical complaint, when there is an agreement to do so in place between the EMS provider agency and the receiving hospital.
- B. At the direction of law enforcement, venous blood draws for chemical testing may be performed by paramedic personnel under the following parameters:
  - 1. Per CVC § 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 perform chemical testing blood draws unless authorized to do so by their employer.
  - 3. An emergency call for EMS services takes precedence over a law enforcement officer's request for a paramedic to perform a chemical testing blood draw.
  - 4. At no time will a law enforcement officer's request for a chemical testing blood draw take precedence over the medical treatment of a patient.

**PROCEDURE:**

- A. Select and utilize appropriate blood-drawing devices.

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- B. If drawing blood from an IV, attach blood draw adapter to the IV catheter hub and draw blood sample immediately after establishing access (prior to IV fluid administration).
  - C. If drawing blood without an IV, prep site with an appropriate disinfectant agent.
  - D. Allow tubes to fill under their own vacuum.
  - E. Blood tubes for medical reasons shall be drawn/filled in the following order:
    - 1. Blue.
    - 2. Red.
    - 3. Green.
    - 4. Purple.
  - F. Samples shall be labeled with the following minimum information:
    - 5. Patient name and date of birth.
    - 6. Date and time drawn.
    - 7. EMS unit number.
  - G. Place filled/labeled tubes used for medical blood draws in an appropriate specimen collection bag and turn them over to appropriate receiving hospital staff.
  - H. Special procedures for chemical testing blood draws:
    - 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. 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. 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 blood sample will be the property of the arresting officer.
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I. Documentation:

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