



Venous Blood Draws

Approval: Troy M. Falck, MD – Medical Director

Effective: 12/01/2024

Approval: John Poland – Executive Director

Next Review: 07/2027

INDICATIONS

- Paramedics or AEMTs may perform blood draws on pts with a medical complaint, when there is an agreement to do so in place between the EMS provider agency & the receiving hospital
- Paramedics may perform chemical testing blood draws at the direction of law enforcement (LE) under the following parameters:
 - Fire department/district employees are not allowed to perform chemical testing blood draws
 - Personnel must be authorized to perform chemical testing blood draws by their employer
 - Medical treatment & emergency calls take precedence over chemical testing blood draw requests

PRE-PROCEDURE

- Assess for & provide medical treatment as indicated/appropriate

MEDICAL BLOOD DRAW PROCEDURE

- Select appropriate equipment & site:
 - If drawing blood from an IV catheter, attach blood draw adapter to the IV catheter hub & draw blood sample prior to IV fluid administration
 - If no IV has been established, or if IV fluids have been administered, prep site with an appropriate disinfectant agent, place tourniquet 3 - 4 inches above collections site & perform venipuncture
- Insert the blood tubes in the following order (releasing tourniquet when blood starts to flow):
 - Blue, Red, Green, Purple
- Apply slight pressure to the site with a gauze pad & secure with tape
- Gently invert each tube a few times (do not shake or mix vigorously)
- Label samples as follows:
 - Patient name & date of birth
 - Date & time of blood draw
 - EMS unit number
- Place labeled tubes in a specimen collection bag & turn over to appropriate hospital staff
- Adequately document medical blood draws on the PCR

CHEMICAL TESTING BLOOD DRAW PROCEDURE

- Suspects shall be in LE custody and shall consent to the blood draw - if the suspect refuses or is unable to consent, the paramedic shall stop the procedure immediately
- Paramedics shall not draw blood on a struggling or restrained suspect
- Blood draw kits shall be supplied by the requesting LE agency
- Alcohol or other volatile organic disinfectant shall not be used to clean the skin at the draw site - a suitable aqueous disinfectant (normally included in the LE supplied blood draw kit) shall be utilized
- The arresting officer must be present when the blood draw is performed & the blood sample is the property of the arresting officer
- In addition to routine incident information, the paramedic shall document the following on the PCR:
 - Blood draw kit number
 - Requesting officer's name & badge number
 - Suspect/Pt's consent for the procedure
 - Skin prep used and site of blood draw(s)