

LEON COUNTY E.M.S.

Standard Operating Guideline

Title: Blood Alcohol Sampling
Effective: May 15, 2012
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Pages: 2

I. PURPOSE:

To provide guidelines for LCEMS personnel asked to perform blood sampling by law enforcement personnel.

II. GUIDELINE:

Paramedics may, at the request of law enforcement personnel, obtain a blood sample for the purposes of legal blood alcohol testing. Requests will be referred to the on-duty supervisor to determine how LCEMS assets can be used.

III. PROCEDURE:

Section 316.1932(1)(f)2.a. Florida Statutes (2012), "Only a physician, certified paramedic, ...acting at the request of a law enforcement officer, may withdraw blood for the purpose of determining the blood alcohol content thereof or the presence of chemical substances or controlled substances therein..." **DRAWING A BLOOD ALCOHOL SAMPLE SHOULD NOT DELAY TRANSPORT OF A CRITICAL PATIENT.**

1. The EMS patient care report (PCR) shall contain the following information:
 - a. A blood alcohol kit was used.
 - b. Betadine (povidone-iodine) solution (or hydrogen peroxide/acetone if allergic to iodine) was used for the skin preparation.
 - c. Name of law enforcement officer requesting blood sample
 - d. Time of draw.
 - e. The paramedic completing the blood draw should be the one to complete the PCR and sign it.
2. All blood samples taken shall be surrendered to the requesting law enforcement officer.
3. The paramedic:
 - a. May be required to obtain multiple samples
 - b. Shall obtain a minimum of two samples per person/per draw.

- c. Shall render emergency medical service or treatment as necessary prior to the drawing of the blood and alcohol samples.
 - d. Shall obtain blood alcohol samples only at the request of a law enforcement officer, either in the field or upon arrival in the Emergency Department.
4. Blood specimen collection instructions:
- a. The blood specimen must be drawn by a paramedic. The blood draw must be at the request of a law enforcement officer, and observed by that officer.
 - b. The officer will remove the parts of the kit and hand them to the paramedic drawing the blood as needed. Two vials from the kit will be filled with blood. **NOTE: The tube marked CONTROL will remain in the kit at all times. It will not be used for the collection of blood**
 - c. The paramedic drawing the blood should use the pad provided in the kit to clean the area where the needle is going to be inserted. If the provided pad is not used, make sure that a non-alcoholic solution is used. The foil envelope that the swab came in should be placed back in the Biological Specimens box. The swab may be disposed of by the paramedic drawing the blood.
 - d. The paramedic drawing the blood should hand the vials back to the officer as they are filled. The officer should gently rock the vials (at least 10 times) to mix the anticoagulant with the blood. Do not shake them vigorously!
 - e. The paramedic drawing the blood may now dispose of the needle and holder along with any other contaminated parts not needed as evidence.
 - f. The paramedic that drew the blood must sign the Blood Collection Form (section three: Certification of Blood Withdrawal).
 - g. The officer is responsible to complete steps 7 – 10 noted on the instruction form noted on the kit.