



# BLOOD ALCOHOL LEGAL DRAW



## Escambia County, Florida - ALS/BLS Medical Protocol

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FS Chapter 316.1932(2)(f)(2)

"Only a physician, or certified paramedic, acting at the request of a law enforcement officer, may withdraw blood for the purpose of determining the alcoholic content thereof or the presence of chemical substances or controlled substances therein...."

**Drawing a blood alcohol sample SHOULD NOT DELAY TREATMENT OR TRANSPORT of the critical patient.**

**The patient has the right to refuse this procedure and should not be forced to have it performed.**

### OBTAINING A BLOOD ALCOHOL SAMPLE

1. The EMS run report 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 the law enforcement officer requesting blood sample.
  - d. Time of draw.
  - e. If paramedic drawing sample is different from the one signing the report, that paramedic will sign under the above information.
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.



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- c. Shall render emergency medical service or treatment as necessary prior to the drawing of 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.

### Blood Specimen Collection Instructions

1. 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.
2. 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.

3. 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.
4. 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 TEN (10) TIMES**) to mix the anticoagulant with the blood. **Do not shake them vigorously!**
5. The paramedic drawing the blood may now dispose of the needle and holder along with any other contaminated parts not needed as evidence.
6. The paramedic that drew the blood must sign the **BLOOD COLLECTION FORM (SECTION THREE: CERTIFICATION OF BLOOD WITHDRAWAL)**.
7. The officer is responsible to complete steps 7-10 as noted on the instruction form included in the kit.



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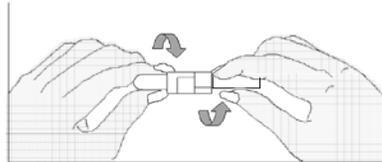
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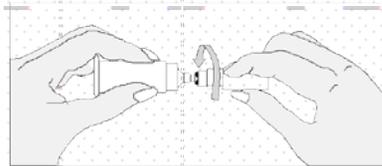
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### Procedure

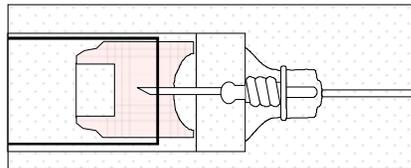
Open needle cartridge. Twist to break the tamper-evident seal. Remove cap, exposing the back portion of the needle and threaded hub. Do not remove front needle cover.



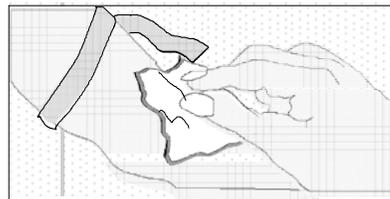
Assemble needle to holder. Thread needle into holder until firmly seated.



Insert VACUTAINER tube into holder. Push straight onto needle, no further than the guideline on the holder.



Apply tourniquet, **prepare venipuncture site using only the non-alcoholic antiseptic pad provided in this kit.** Position the arm in a downward or lowered altitude.



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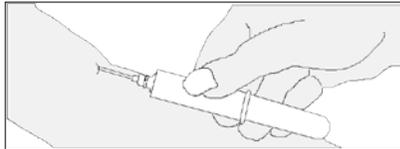


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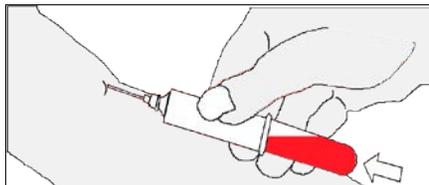


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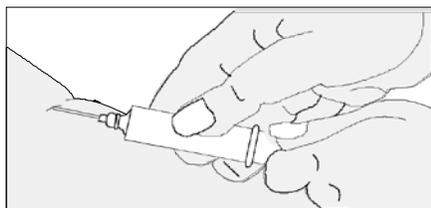
Remove needle cover; perform venipuncture in the usual manner, keeping the tube in an upward position with the stopper upper-most.



Push VACUTAINER tube forward to end of holder, piercing the rubber stopper. When blood flows into tube, REMOVE TOURNIQUET AS SOON AS BLOOD BEGINS TO FILL TUBE. DURING THIS PROCEDURE, DO NOT ALLOW CONTENTS OF VACUTAINER TUBE TO CONTACT STOPPER. SPECIAL ATTENTION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO ARM POSITION, TUBE POSITION IN ORDER TO PREVENT POSSIBLE BACKFLOW FROM THE TUBE AND ITS ATTENDANT POSSIBILITY OF ADVERSE REACTION TO THE PATIENT.



When the tube fill is complete and blood ceases to flow, remove the tube from the holder. Insert the second VACUTAINER tube straight into the holder until blood flows.



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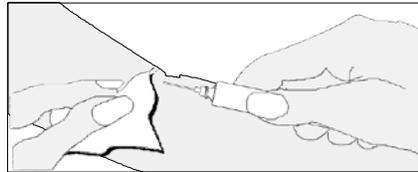
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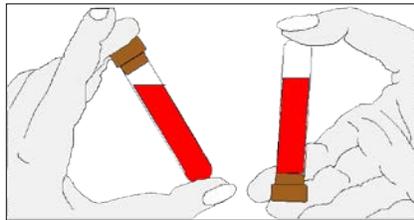
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When sampling is completed immediately remove the needle/holder assembly with the last VACUTAINER, then remove the tube from the assembly: Apply and hold a dry sterile compress to the venipuncture site. Elevate the arm.



To assure proper mixing with anticoagulant powder, slowly invert the tubes at least five times immediately after blood collection. **DO NOT SHAKE VIGOROUSLY!**



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