



1833

Prehospital Blood Draws

Nor-Cal EMS Policy & Procedure Manual	ALS Procedures
Effective Date: 03/01/2025	Next Revision: 03/01/2028
Approval: Jeffrey Kepple MD – MEDICAL DIRECTOR	SIGNATURE ON FILE

INDICATION

- Paramedic personnel may perform venous blood draws on patients for medical reasons or chemical testing (e.g. law enforcement).

CONTRAINDICATIONS

- No contraindications.

PRECAUTIONS

- Blood collection must not interfere with emergency medical care.

PROCEDURES

- Select and utilize appropriate blood-drawing devices.
- 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).
- If drawing blood without an IV, prep site with an appropriate disinfectant agent.
- Allow tubes to fill under their own vacuum.
- Blood tubes for medical reasons shall be drawn/filled in the following order:
 - Blue
 - Red
 - Green
 - Purple
- Samples shall be labeled with the following minimum information:
 - Patient name and date of birth
 - Date and time drawn
 - EMS unit number
- Place filled/labeled tubes used for medical blood draws in an appropriate specimen collection bag and turn them over to appropriate receiving hospital staff.
- Special procedures for chemical testing blood draws:
- For a legal blood draw for law enforcement parameters:
 - Per CVC § 23158 (k), paramedic employees of a fire department are not approved to perform venous blood draws for the purpose of chemical testing.

- Paramedic personnel shall not perform chemical testing blood draws unless authorized to do so by their employer.
- 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.
- At no time will a law enforcement officer's request for a chemical testing of blood draw take precedence over the medical treatment of a patient.
- Suspects shall be in law enforcement custody and shall consent to the blood drawn. 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.
- Blood draw kits shall be supplied by the requesting law enforcement agency.
- 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.
- The arresting officer must be present when the blood draw is performed.
- The blood sample will be the property of the arresting officer.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Following information shall be documented on the patient care report for all the 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, suspects or patients consent for the procedure, kit number, skin preparation used, and site of blood draw(s).