



PROCEDURES PROC-03

BLOOD DRAW REQUEST BY TEXAS J.P.

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Last Revision:
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General:

- Per HB 3775 of the State of Texas, a Justice of the Peace in the State of Texas can order a paramedic to draw blood for the purpose of determining the alcohol content or the presence of chemical substances. This bill became effective 09/01/99.
- A certified paramedic acting at the request of a Justice of the Peace shall not incur any civil or criminal liability as a result of the blood draw.
- If, for any reason, an MCHD paramedic feels uncomfortable performing this procedure, he/she should contact a District Chief.

Procedure:

- Blood draw should be under the supervision of the requesting Justice of the Peace.
- Use the blood draw kit as supplied by the Justice of the Peace.
- Don appropriate personal protective equipment.
- Cleanse the venipuncture site using alcohol preps or Chlorohexidine.
- Make venipuncture with an 18 or 20 ga catheter.
- Withdraw blood into two (2) gray top tubes using the needleless vacutainer equipment.
- Slowly invert the tubes at least 5 times to assure proper mixing of the blood and the anticoagulant powder. The paramedic should write his initials, date and time on the tube before handing the tubes to the Justice of the Peace.
- Discontinue the I. V. unless otherwise indicated.
- The paramedic who drew the blood sample should sign any required forms or labels and observe the blood tubes being sealed by the officer.
- If not already done, an incident number should be generated from the Alarm office.
- Accurate and thorough documentation of the circumstances and events should be recorded including name of JP and Peace Officer requesting procedure, site of the blood draw, time performed and time the blood sample was released to the Peace Officer.
- Have the Officer or other authorized individual sign as having received the blood sample to document chain of custody after being drawn by EMS. This documentation is important so that the integrity of the blood draw by MCHD-EMS is not in question.