Loudoun County Emergency Medical Services Council, Inc.

EMS Policy #24

EMS Blood Draw Procedure

Origin: 02/07
Revision: 03/10

EMS BLOOD DRAW PROCEDURE

1. The EMS personnel who have drawn bloods from a patient in the field shall maintain secure custody of the bloods until such time that labels have been produced by the Emergency Department personnel at either the Lansdowne and Cornwall ER facilities.
   A. It is necessary that at the time of blood draw:
      i. The green arm band be placed on the patient
      ii. A green numbered sticker that corresponds to the arm band be placed on each blood tube.
      iii. A green numbered sticker that corresponds to the arm band be placed on the hard copy of the PPCR or the number recorded if utilizing electronic PPCR device.

2. The receiving facility will conduct a quick registration that will produce white labels with the patient's name (see attachment). These may be picked up at the patient's beside within a few minutes of the patient's registration.

3. The label will have the Patient name, DOB, Admission Date, Gender, Unit/MR number and a bar code. The ALS provider shall place a time of blood draw (military time format) and initial the label, before affixing to the blood tube.

4. Once the labels have been produced and updated, EMS personnel shall verify and ensure that the labels are for the patient that they have drawn the blood from and then affix the labels to the blood tubes in the following manner.

   A. Lansdowne ED

      The patient's label is placed length-wise on the blood tube. <u>The label should be placed in a manner that will not cover the tube's expiration date.</u>
      Note: The length of the label is longer than the blood tube. This is acceptable. It will not interfere with the processing of the blood tubes.

The green numbered sticker should be place on the side opposite the patient's label.

B. Cornwall ED

The patient's label is placed in a perpendicular fashion to the blood tube. The label will create a "pigtail". The label is to be secured in a manner so that the expiration date on the blood tube itself is not covered. The best position for the label will be in the upper 1/3 of the vial.

The green numbered sticker should be placed near the bottom of the tube.

5. Once again, verification should be made that the correct labels (correct patient) have been used once affixed to the tubes.

6. The tubes of blood, with the affixed labels, should then be handed to the nurse in charge of the patients care.

7. If the custody of the bloods drawn has been broken, then the blood tubes should be discarded.

8. The EMS PPCR (electronic or paper) must have the patient's correct date of birth (DOB) and legal name. It is important that the PPCR, blood tubes and hospital documentation all are identical.

Improper handling of EMS Blood Draws will be brought to the attention of the Operational Medical Director(s), who will pursue corrective action with the involved provider's ALS Agency Chief, in concert with General Directive #1.

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