

PROCEDURE FOR: Blood Alcohol Levels: Obtaining for Evidence

- POLICY:
1. This procedure must be followed when blood is being drawn for alcohol levels requested by a legal and/or official agency.
  2. The Medical Examiner must be notified before any blood samples (legal or otherwise) are drawn on patients that are pronounced dead on arrival.
  3. Written consent must be obtained from the patient before the blood specimen is drawn.

EQUIPMENT: Betadine swabs  
Yellow vacutainer  
Toxicology container

DOCUMENTATION: 1. Complete Alcohol Specimen Collection Consent Form.

PROCEDURE:

ACTION

POINTS OF EMPHASIS

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Obtain written consent from the patient before the blood is drawn. Two signatures are necessary as proof of consent from the patient:<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. JDH Alcohol Specimen Collection Consent Form (see attached).</li><li>b. Police request form for blood alcohol specimen.</li></ol></li><li>2. The blood is drawn by an E.D. staff R.N. or E.D. Attending. The skin is prepped with Betadine prior to venipuncture. The blood specimen is then transferred into the specimen bottle provided in the toxicology container in the presence of the RN/MD.</li><li>3. The E.D. staff RN/Attending MD completes the form enclosed in the toxicology container including the</li></ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. The patient must clearly understand that the results of this test can be used for or against him in a court of law and he has the legal right to refuse permission for this test to be done. The police officer must have the opportunity to explain this to the patient before drawing the blood.</li><li>b. If the patient refuses after the explanation, coercion of the patient resulting in a "change of mind" is not binding.</li></ol></li><li>2. <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. The toxicology container is brought by the police department that requests the specimen.</li></ol></li><li>3. The Emergency Department physician/nurse sign where designated. This signature</li></ol> |
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POINTS OF EMPHASIS

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| <p>seal number from the metal sealer and signature of person drawing blood.</p> <p>4. The blood specimen and police department request form are then sealed within the container.</p> <p>5. The toxicology container is then given to the requesting police officer.</p> <p>6. The JDH consent form becomes part of the Emergency Department Record and the seal number is recorded on the Emergency Department Record.</p> | <p>indicates that he/she has drawn the blood specimen.</p> <p>4. a. This is done by replacing the metal cap on the container and approximating the small holes on either side. The metal wire is then threaded through the holes at least three times and twisted together.</p> <p>b. The metal seal is clipped on as directed on it.</p> <p>c. All appropriate materials must be in the container before it is sealed. Reopening invalidates the seal.</p> <p>5. Disposition recorded in the electronic Emergency Department Record.</p> <p>6. Consent form must be scanned into the electronic record.</p> |
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APPROVAL: Emergency Department Standards Committee  
Nursing Standards Committee

EFFECTIVE DATE: 1/88

REVISION DATES: 4/95, 10/99, 12/02, 3/06

REVIEWED DATES: 9/08

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THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT HEALTH CENTER  
JOHN DEMPSEY HOSPITAL  
Alcohol Specimen Collection Consent Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Brought by \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_

I, the undersigned, am an officially authorized police officer of \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ and hereby request that a blood/urine (cross out  
inapplicable one) specimen from the apprehended party named above be obtained by a  
medically qualified person. Such apprehended party has been arrested on charges  
relating to the ingestion of intoxicating liquor or drugs. I certify that the test  
requested is reasonably likely to produce evidence relevant to such charges, and that  
the delay incident to obtaining a search warrant would likely result in destruction of  
the evidence.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Police Officer's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Badge Number

I hereby consent to the taking of blood/urine (cross out inapplicable one) specimen(s)  
from me by the medically qualified person who has signed below. I am aware of the  
nature and purpose of the specimen collection procedure and certify that I consent  
thereto. Furthermore, I release the hospital, attending physician(s), nurse(s), and  
other hospital personnel from any and all liability which may result from this specimen  
collection.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Apprehended Party's Signature

Upon the official request of the above named police officer and with the full  
knowledge, consent, and cooperation of the above named apprehended party, I collected  
the specimen(s) noted above. The specimen(s) was (were) given to the above named  
police officer, whose signature below certifies receipt of the above specimen(s). I  
certify that I am medically qualified to obtain the above specimen(s).

\_\_\_\_\_  
Specimen Collector's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Police Officer's Signature