App Q	Blood Collection by EMS Providers	App Q
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OHIO MEDIC

MEDIC

A. It is strongly recommended that the service Medical Director in conjunction with EMS leadership and the local Police Department develop the appropriate standard operating guidelines and protocols for withdrawing blood if desired by their service.

B. Select Ohio Law(s) referenced to Blood Collection for EMTs:

1. Section 4765.39(D) In addition to, and in the course of, providing emergency medical treatment, emergency medical technician-paramedic may withdraw blood as provided under sections 1547.11, 4506.17, and 4511.19 of the Revised Code. An emergency medical technician-paramedic shall withdraw blood in accordance with this chapter and any rules adopted under it by the state board of emergency medical, fire and transportation services.
2. Section 4511.19(C) excerpt: “A person authorized to withdraw blood under this division may refuse to withdraw blood under this division, if in that person's opinion, the physical welfare of the person would be endangered by the withdrawing of blood.”

C. A MEDIC shall not attempt to withdraw blood if:

1. In the opinion of the EMT-paramedic, the physical welfare of the patient, the EMT, or any other person would be endangered by the withdrawing of blood
2. In the opinion of the EMT-paramedic, the withdrawing of blood would cause an unreasonable delay in the treatment or transport of the patient or any other person
3. Consent of the patient is not obtained. Any person who is unconscious, or who otherwise is in a condition rendering the person incapable of refusal, shall be deemed to have consented
4. Blood would be withdrawn from a pre-existing central venous access device
5. The withdrawing of blood would result in a violation of any rule in this chapter
6. Deceased patients cannot be included as they will no longer benefit from EMS Care.

D. The law states “in the course of, providing emergency medical treatment” and as such all persons from whom blood is drawn should have required care/assessment.

1. A MEDIC should not be dispatched for the sole purpose of withdrawing blood for evidence collection.

E. All persons from whom blood is drawn must have a Patient Care Report completed. If they refuse medical treatment or transport then the appropriate refusal forms should be filled out.

F. Clear written protocols developed in conjunction with Law Enforcement.

1. Blood should be drawn in the presence of the Law Enforcement Officer who will take possession of the sample.
2. Document the name of the Law Enforcement Officer the sample was given to and the time the sample was acquired
3. Law enforcement will provide the blood collection kit
4. Law enforcement agencies independently contract with a variety of forensic laboratories to process their respective collected evidence. The content and design of blood collection kits are similar, but vary depending upon the type of kit the forensic laboratory vendor has elected to use and to provide to its clients, including law enforcement agencies. EMS agencies are encouraged to contact their local law enforcement agencies about the specific kits used in their area and availability for use in training

G. Training

1. Paramedics should be trained on the kit to be used.

NOTES:

A. This protocol references the information available at the time publication. Refer to the Ohio DPS, Division of EMS for up-to-date rules and information pertinent to the topic.

http://www.ems.ohio.gov/ems_laws.stm

This protocol references the open letter Senate Bill 58 and The Impact on EMS (August 23, 2010) by Carol A. Cunningham, M.D., State Medical Director, Ohio Department of Public Safety, Division of EMS State's rough draft of their rules 4765-6-06.