

**HACKETTSTOWN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER
LABORATORY POLICY MANUAL**

LEGAL BLOOD ALCOHOL

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Effective Date: October 14, 2005
Cross Referenced:
Reviewed Date: 4/9/12
Revised Date: 01/12

Policy No: SC500.03
Origin: Special Collections
Authority: Laboratory Director
Page: 1 of 2

PRINCIPLE:

Specimens for chain-of-custody alcohol testing are drawn by the laboratory staff in the Emergency Room. The police officer makes the request for a legal alcohol to be done. The responsibility of the laboratory is only to draw the patient using the kit provided by the police department. The hospital does not stock these kits since we do not perform the actual testing. There are NO acceptable substitutes – our laboratory tubes are never to be used.

NOTE: If the patient is not being seen by the Emergency Room physician, they must be registered as an Outpatient.

PROCEDURE:

1. Once the ER calls for a legal blood alcohol to be drawn, obtain a copy of the “Laboratory Certificate of Proper Blood Withdrawal” form (located in the laboratory form rack near Pathology or in the Emergency Room). This form must be completed and signed by both the police officer and the laboratory personnel drawing the blood.*
2. The police officer requesting the legal blood alcohol must provide a kit before the laboratory can draw the blood. The kit should be checked for expiration – an expiration date is stamped on the outside cardboard cylinder. The contents of the kit should also be checked. If there is any problem with the kit, another one must be obtained. At no time can any of our laboratory supplies be substituted.

***IMPORTANT** – The police officer must be present at all times during the draw. Be sure to open the kit in front of the patient and the officer.

3. The patient must read and sign a Blood Alcohol Consent prior to the blood draw. The Emergency Room has two forms, one for a person under arrest and one for a person not under arrest. The appropriate form is to be filled out by the patient, police officer and person drawing the blood sample.

***NOTE** - If a patient is NOT under arrest, the patient MUST sign the form before you proceed. See attached exhibit, A1, Person under arrest and A2, Person not under arrest.

4. After the patient has been identified and appropriate forms completed, venipuncture is performed according the proper procedure making sure only to use the Iodine Prep Pak found in the kit.
5. Withdraw blood specimens from the patient allowing both 10ml tubes to fill to maximum volume. Immediately after blood collection, assure proper mixing by inverting tubes at least five times.

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6. Complete all information requested on the red blood specimen seals and have the officer verify the accuracy of the information on both seals.
7. Remove the backing from both red blood specimen seals, affix center of seals on the blood tube's rubber stopper, and press ends of seals down over sides of the tubes.
8. Rewrap sealed blood tubes in the absorption sheet. Place each tube inside plastic protective container. Secure lids and return to the officer.
9. Be sure that all forms, Blood Collection Report, Consent Form, and Police Officer's Report have been completed.
10. Place filled and sealed blood collection tubes (in plastic protective container) in ziplock bag that is provided. Insert Drimop and squeeze excess air from bag and seal. Place bag and its contents in tube mailer provider. Return it to police officer.