

P280 LFD PROCEDURE: FIELD DRAWN BLOOD SAMPLES

AEMT	EMT-I	Paramedic
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Indications

- A. Patients receiving an IV in the field and who, in the judgment of the field providers, will need blood tests in the emergency department.
- B. Patients receiving IV dextrose in the field.
- C. Patients that may have been exposed to carbon monoxide.

Precautions

- A. Use body substance isolation precautions.
- B. Proper identification of the patient and the specimen(s) is mandatory.
- C. Improper technique in obtaining the specimen will result in inaccurate or invalid test results. This wastes critical time and defeats the purpose of drawing specimens in the field.

Technique

- A. After initiating an IV and removing the needle, attach the Vacutainer holder to the hub of the IV catheter. (This is accomplished using the Luer adaptor attached to the Vacutainer holder.)
- B. Fill all the desired blood tubes in appropriate order per system requirements.
- C. Tubes containing anticoagulant should be inverted gently back and forth at least ten times to insure adequate mixing of blood with the substance in the tube. **Do not shake the tube** as this could cause hemolysis, which could interfere with test results.
- D. The tubes should be placed in a small biohazard bag. The bag should be labeled with the patient's name and time of draw and taped to the patient's IV bag. The tubes may also be handed directly to the nurse attending the patient.

Side effects and special notes

- A. Any discrepancy in identification must be reported immediately to the emergency department charge nurse.
- B. Pediatrics receiving an IV should have at least a red tube and lavender top tube drawn. The red top may be filled only halfway and the lavender only 1/4 of the way to do the needed tests. If available, red and lavender pediatric tubes may be used.
- C. The blue top tube must be filled exactly, according to the vacuum.
- D. Blood samples should be drawn prior to the administration of IV fluid, in order to provide a better and less dilute sample for potential "donor" patients.