

# Drawing Blood Samples

When ever Intravenous therapy is started in the field, the Paramedics draw a blood sample for the hospital. This allows the hospital to do several test including blood type checking as soon as the patient arrives at the emergency room. This also reduces the need for a second invasive procedure just to draw blood. There are several things first responders can do to make drawing blood easier for the Paramedic. Below is a list of tips and specific techniques that can be helpful for assisting during blood draw procedures.

## 1. The Required Pieces

- Blood Tags/Bracelet ● Blood Tubes
- Draw Cup
- Tip for Draw Cup



**Caution!** Use care when handling the tip of the blood draw cup. The part of the tip that goes inside the blood cup has a needle under a rubber cover & it can easily poke a careless

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## 2. Prepare Blood Draw Cup

Twist the caps of the tip and pull apart.

You should see a rubber covered needle and a threaded part near the remaining cap.

Carefully twist this end into the small threaded end of the cup.



**DO NOT TOUCH** either ends of the tip. This would possibly expose the patient to

The blood cup is now ready for use.



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### 3. Label all blood tubes

Write the following information:

- **DATE & TIME** using 24 hour format. (i.e. 02:35 for 2:35 am)
- **PATIENTS NAME** Last Name, First Name.
- The initials **BFD** to tell the hospital who drew the samples.

Place red blood tube tags on all tubes & attach the bracelet around the patients wrist loose enough to slide one finger under it.



Do not cut remaining stickers off the bracelet.

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### 4. Hand Items to the Medic

**Caution!** Use care when handling any sharps. Dispose of used sharps as soon as possible. Be sure that others are clear when sharps are being handled.

As soon as the IV catheter is inserted and the needle is removed, The blood draw cup is needed.

Hold the blood draw cup assembly by the end cap when handing it to the Paramedic. He or she will be able to grab the end he needs and pull it out of the

Save this cap for safe & easy tip removal later.

After the blood cup assembly is attached to the IV catheter by the Paramedic, he or she will be ready for the blood tubes.

Hold the tubes with the tops toward the Paramedic so that he or she can grab them in



the order of their choosing.

For TRAUMA patients - The tube with the RED TOP should be filled first because it is used for blood type matching. For other patients this is not real important.

Have your other hand ready to receive filled tubes and put them in a zip lock bag

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## 5. Dispose of used parts

**Caution!** Use care when handling the tip of the blood draw cup. The part of the tip that goes inside the blood cup has a needle under a rubber cover & it can easily poke a careless handler.

Before disposing of the cup, ask if the cup is still needed for a glucose sample.

The entire assembly should be disposed of in the sharps container.

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Congratulations! You now know how to setup for blood draws. You will now be a more effective aid to the Paramedics when they are starting IVs.