Law Enforcement Phlebotomy Programs That Work

Moderator: Beth Wolfe
Speaker: Don Marose
Speaker: Jared Olsen
Agenda

• What are phlebotomists?

• Why do law enforcement (LE) officers need a phlebotomy program?

• Experiences and lessons learned from establishing a LE phlebotomy program.
Phlebotomy is...

A procedure in which a needle is used to take blood from a vein, usually for laboratory testing.

Also called blood draw and venipuncture.
Phlebotomists work at...

- Healthcare facilities
- Blood donation centers
- Mobile clinics
- Public health facilities
- Drug treatment centers
- Prisons
Law Enforcement Phlebotomists

- Expedite the evidence collection process from a suspected impaired driver.

- Lessen the burden of contracting phlebotomy services outside of a LE agency, which can generate cost and time savings.

- Ensure the chain/custody of evidence
Facts and Figures

NHTSA DRE Database, from January 1, 2012 through June 1, 2017:

Total DRE Evaluations = 196,878

- Blood Sample Given: 79,738 (40.5%)
- Urine Sample Given: 81,184 (41.2%)
- Poly-Substance in Toxicology Report: 71,860 (36.5%)
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LAW ENFORCEMENT PHLEBOTOMY
PHLEBOTOMY IN MN

- Began working on the program in 2008
- Identified a issue in SE MN
- First training held in 2011
- Held annually until 2016
PHLEBOTOMY IN MN

- Twice annually since 2017
- Currently 76 law enforcement phlebotomists in 34 agencies
- Other officers trained through other means
- XXX draws since inception
WHY PHLEBOTOMY?

- Drugged driving is on the rise nationwide
  - Blood samples have increased 33% in last 5 years (MN)

- DWI arrest are law enforcement duties

- ‘Nurse’ involvement for law enforcement purposes

- ‘Nurse ‘ availability for court

- Draw can be completed at S.O./P.D. not hospital
WHY PHLEBOTOMY?

- Utilize other LEO resources
  (Arresting Officer – DRE – Phlebotomist)

- Don’t have to be a DRE

- You will need this skill!

- A fix before the problem becomes a problem
WHAT IS PHLEBOTOMY?

Phlebotomy is the act of drawing blood either for testing or transfusion.
WHAT IS PHLEBOTOMY?

It is a skill employed by physicians and many professionals in allied health fields, including medical assistants, paramedics, and clinical laboratory scientists.
PHLEBOTOMY

In everyday life, blood is drawn in a number of places outside of hospitals
PHLEBOTOMY

Certification is legally required in only four states
A blood draw is a blood draw

You are only ‘authorized’ to draw for law enforcement related activities
MN STANDARDS

Ensure that your draw is performed in a controlled setting

-PD, SO, jail, etc.

Make sure Jail, P.D., S.O. are aware of your skill and that you will be drawing at their facility
MN STANDARDS

Clean (vs. Sterile) Location

Consider alternative testing options for uncooperative subjects

**ALWAYS** use a ‘stable platform’

– Not on the trunk lid or in the back seat
169A.51 Subd. 7. Requirements for conducting tests; liability
(a) Only a physician, medical technician, emergency medical technician-paramedic, registered nurse, medical technologist, medical laboratory technician, phlebotomist, laboratory assistant, or other qualified person acting at the request of a peace officer may withdraw blood for the purpose of determining the presence of alcohol, a controlled substance or its metabolite, or a hazardous substance. This limitation does not apply to the taking of a breath or urine sample.
169A.51

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169A.51

Subd. 7. Requirements for conducting tests; liability.
(c) The physician, medical technician, emergency medical technician-paramedic, medical technologist, medical laboratory technician, laboratory assistant, phlebotomist, registered nurse, or other qualified person drawing blood at the request of a peace officer for the purpose of determining the concentration of alcohol, a controlled substance or its metabolite, or a hazardous substance is in no manner liable in any civil or criminal action except for negligence in drawing the blood.
THE KIT

• SIGNATURES
   – MEDICAL PERSONNEL CERTIFICATE, SAMPLE INFORMATION SHEET, BLOOD TUBE LABELS

• TUBES
   – POWDER PRESENT

• NEEDLE
   – SEAL INTACT

• IODINE
   – NOT ALCOHOL SWAB
SUPPLIES NOT IN BCA KIT

- TOURNIQUET
- BANDAGES, GAUZE, TAPE
- GLOVES
- SHARPS CONTAINER
LOG/DOCUMENTATION

Complete a supplemental report per your agency’s policy

Include:

- Name
- Date/time
- Location of draw
- Kit number
- “Sealed”
- “Powder present”
- Type of cleaner used
- Arm used
- Kit completion
On 04/27/2011 at approximately 1650 hours, a blood draw was conducted on DOE at the Woodbury Police Department intake area.

Being a trained MN Law Enforcement Phlebotomist and employed through the City of Woodbury as such, I conducted the blood draw on DOE.

The BCA Blood Kit # 9999999 (Lot # 10117 / Expiration Date Aug, 31, 2011) was intact and sealed prior to opening it. All appropriate contents of the kit were present including powder being present in both test tubes.
I drew blood from DOE from his right antecubital vein. The sight was prepped with the provided iodine wipe.

Both test tubes were filled and placed back into the kit. The appropriate paperwork was completed and the kit was sealed. The kit was turned over to Officer Johnson.

During the blood draw procedure, no unusual circumstances were noted. The medical certificate was signed by myself as a EMT/Paramedic.
ANNUAL REQUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

• Perform a minimum of 4 successful venipunctures per year as witnessed and verified by qualified, licensed medical personnel.

• Attend a requalification course in phlebotomy techniques when offered by the MN Phlebotomy Coordinator.
LOG/DOCUMENTATION

Maintain a log of draws to show proficiency.

Submit log and all reports to Minnesota state law enforcement phlebotomy coordinator annually.
# LOG/DOCUMENTATION

## Minnesota Law Enforcement Phlebotomist Program

### Log of Blood Draws

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Agency</th>
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<th>Suspect's Name</th>
<th>DOB</th>
<th>Arrest Dept.</th>
<th>ICR/CRN</th>
<th>Date/Time</th>
<th>Kit Number</th>
<th>Arm Used</th>
<th>Miscellaneous (AC, Arresting Officer, Etc.)</th>
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**Notes:**
- DOB: Date of Birth
- Arrest Dept.: Arresting Department
- ICR/CRN: Identification Card Number
- Date/Time: Date and Time of Blood Draw
- Kit Number: Number of Kit Used
- Arm Used: Arm on which Blood was Drawn
- Miscellaneous: Additional Information (AC, Arresting Officer, Etc.)
QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT

How did you get certified to draw blood?

Not certified, qualified

Describe the venipuncture procedure.

Be able to explain all the way through, not leaving out any steps.
QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT

Tell me about the gray top tube - what's in it?
What do those additives do?
Did you check to see that the additive was in it?
How do you know that was the additive and not baking soda?

Need to know contents of tube and what they do.

Be prepared for unfair questions - is it your job to chemically test the additive?
QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT

How did you keep your equipment/gloves sterile?

Not sterile, clean. (how can you keep them clean?)
QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT

Did you clean the top of the tube?

Why not?

Why do you not do some things they will ask you about?

It's not part of the procedure.
QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT

What did you clean the arm with?

Was that povidone-iodine or tincture of iodine?

What if you don't have povidone-iodine?

Tincture of iodine has alcohol in it. Your blood kit has povidone-iodine. What are some other options for cleaning?
QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT

What location did you draw the blood at? (Where, physically? Outside, inside, etc.)

Be prepared to explain why you drew them where you did.
Key parameters - seated, safe, secure.
QUESTIONS TO THINK ABOUT

How do you clean hands when a sink is not available?
   Hand sanitizer all that is required unless heavy contamination.

How do you show didn't transfer "alcohol" to subject?
   Let hands completely dry, put on gloves before touching them, etc.
As a law enforcement phlebotomist, do you have standards of practice?

CLSI guidelines.
Adhere to national venipuncture standard.
MN Standards.
The Real Pros of Officer Phlebotomy
Here's the Beef!
The Law

Will the law support a law enforcement phlebotomy program?
Idaho Statutes
Licensed physician; Qualified medical technologist; Registered Nurse; Trained phlebotomist, and Other trained medical personnel.
2

The Training

Where is your best training program?
Certified VS. Qualified/Trained
Refresher Training
Cost of Equipment
$250-400
The Standards

Develop Standards specific to the law enforcement phlebotomist
Don’t Skate Under
The Right Applicant
Command Decision
The Liability

Following the first 3 steps lowers the liability risk.
Seated
Safe & Secure
The Training

Prior Planning helps clear other potential hurdles.
Judges
City Council
County Commissioners
Benefits must outweigh the costs for the program to succeed.
BENEFITS

4 : 1
Advantages of the Law Enforcement Phlebotomist
HIPPA
Time!
Red Light, Yellow Light, Green Light

What will stop you from implementing your action plan?

Who’s approval or buy-in do you need?

What can you do to immediately get started?
I finally found it!
A program you cannot refuse.
Jared Olson

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