

Blood Alcohol & Drugs of Abuse Post Mortem Specimen Collection Instructions

Post mortem blood alcohol collection kits are to be used by Pennsylvania county coroners, deputy coroners, medical examiners, deputy medical examiners, or their authorized agents to withdraw blood specimens in accordance with 28 Pa. Code §§29.21 and 29.22, and 75 P.C.S. §3749, (Reports by coroners and medical examiners).

4991 Kit (Mailer box) Contains:

- 2 – 10 mL Gray top blood collection tubes each containing Sodium Fluoride & Potassium Oxalate
- 1 – Disposable 10 mL syringe
- 1 – Disposable 16 gauge x 4" needle
- 1 – White absorbent pad
- 6 – Pressure sensitive (Integrity) seals
- 6 – Identification (ID) seals
- 1 – Instruction sheet
- 1 – Biohazard label
- 1 – Police Officer's Report label atop of plastic box
- 1 – Plastic bag
- Certificate of Manufacturer to certify that the 10 mL Gray top blood collection tubes (Sodium Fluoride/Potassium Oxalate), stoppers, syringe, and needle are new and have not been previously used. No alcohol is used in the manufacturing procedures for these items.

4991 – Instructions For Use Post Mortem Blood Alcohol Determination:

1. Fill in Police Officer's report label.
2. Assemble 16 gauge needle with disposable syringe.
3. Obtain blood specimen using syringe. Specimen should be taken from the heart, whenever possible. Otherwise, specimen should be taken from the femoral vein or other large blood vessel, if possible. Specimens shall be taken as soon as possible after death, and before the body is embalmed.
4. Do not obtain blood specimens using embalming equipment. Do not use alcohol or alcoholic antiseptics as these may contaminate the specimen.
5. Transfer blood to 10 mL Gray top blood collection tube (Sodium Fluoride/Potassium Oxalate) by thrusting the needle through stopper of tube. Vacuum in tube will draw blood from the syringe into the tube. Obtain second blood specimen and fill second tube.
6. Immediately mix blood with the anticoagulant powder in the tube by slowly and completely inverting tubes at least five or six times. **Do Not shake vigorously.**
NOTE: Dispose of needle and syringe in a proper sharps collection container.
7. Completely fill in all seals.
8. Seal each 10 mL Gray top blood collection tube (Sodium Fluoride/Potassium Oxalate) with a completed seal, press center of seal atop rubber stopper, then firmly press ends down the sides of each tube.
9. Place sealed 10 mL Gray top blood collection tubes containing the blood specimen back into the kit's plastic box. Place the white absorbent pad back on top of the blood vials. Snap the plastic box lid back onto the box and tightly close box.
10. Affix one red integrity seal to each end of the plastic kit box sealing both ends of kit.
11. Place in plastic bag and seal.
12. Fill out the Report of Toxicology Studies and place in the mailer box. Do not separate any forms. Final forms will be returned after the analysis is complete.
13. Be sure to fill in the mail to and return addresses.
14. Close the mailer box and lock the postal seal. Affix the remaining integrity seals, one on each side of the postal seal, taping the box closed for security.
15. Forward kit to laboratory without delay.