

Postmortem blood alcohol and drugs of abuse 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 containing sodium fluoride and potassium oxalate
- 1 – Disposable 10 mL syringe
- 1 – Disposable 16-gauge, 4" needle
- 1 – White absorbent pad
- 6 – Pressure sensitive (Integrity) seals
- 2 – 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

4991 – Instructions For Use Post Mortem Blood Alcohol Determinations:

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 (try to collect at least a minimum of 1 mL) to 10 mL gray top blood collection tube 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. **Dispose of needle and syringe in a proper sharps collection container.**
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.**
7. Completely fill in all seals.
8. Seal each 10 mL gray top blood collection tube with a completed seal, press center of seal atop rubber stopper, then firmly press ends down the sides of each tube. Or place a completed seal around the body of each vial, being careful not to cover up labels on the vials.
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 kit's plastic box, sealing both ends of box.
11. Place in plastic bag and seal.
12. Fill out the Report of Toxicology Studies completely and place in the mailer box. You may separate the goldenrod copy for your records.
13. Be sure to fill in both 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. Refrigerate (2-8 °C) completed mailer box (kit) until ready to ship, otherwise ship kit to laboratory without delay.