

Blood Alcohol and Drug Test Kits - Modification of

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Functional Sub group Clinical/ Patient Services - Pathology
Clinical/ Patient Services - Infectious diseases
Population Health - Infection Control
Population Health - Communicable Diseases
Personnel/Workforce - Occupational Health & Safety

Summary Advises of modification to and compulsory use of a new sampling kit for blood and urine alcohol testing.

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Applies to Area Health Services/Chief Executive Governed Statutory Health Corporation, Board Governed Statutory Health Corporations, Affiliated Health Organisations - Non Declared, Affiliated Health Organisations - Declared, Divisions of General Practice, Government Medical Officers, Private Hospitals and Day Procedure Centres, Public Hospitals

Distributed to Public Health System, Divisions of General Practice, Government Medical Officers, Health Professional Associations and Related Organisations, NSW Ambulance Service, NSW Department of Health, Public Hospitals, Private Hospitals and Day Procedure Centres

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Policy Manual Not applicable

File No. 97/2303-4

Previous reference N/A

Status Active

Director-General

This Policy Directive may be varied, withdrawn or replaced at any time. Compliance with this directive is **mandatory** for NSW Health and is a condition of subsidy for public health organisations.

MODIFICATION TO THE BLOOD ALCOHOL AND DRUG TEST KITS

The purpose of this Policy Directive is to advise Area Health Service employees of modifications to the blood alcohol and drug testing Kits. This Policy Directive must be read in conjunction with Policy Directives PD2005_247 (Circular No: 2002/45) NSW Health *Infection Control Policy*, and PD2005_495 *Blood Alcohol Sampling by Hospital Staff*.

1. Background

1.1 Clinical Background

The Department is aware that the use of a needle and syringe for blood collection has been shown to have potential for causing needle stick injuries. Safer technology is routinely available in the form of closed vacuum blood systems. Dividing the specimen into two collection tubes involves additional handling and risks associated with needle stick injury or splashing with fresh blood.

In consultation with the NSW Department of Health and the NSW Police Forensic and Police Service, the Roads Traffic Authority (RTA) passed the *Road Transport (Safety and Traffic Management) Amendment (Blood Sampling) Act 2000* which requires a sample of a person's blood to be placed into **one** sample container. This change has removed the requirement to split the specimen into two collection tubes and will improve safety.

The new system consists of two new Kits, a blood alcohol test kit and a blood and urine drug test kit.

You will note that either a medical practitioner or a nurse acting under the instructions of a medical practitioner may sign the Certificates accompanying the specimens.

1.2 Legal Background

Several different Acts allow police officers to require persons to undergo compulsory blood alcohol and drug tests. The *Road Transport (Safety and Traffic Management) Act 1999* applies to traffic (motor, horse and pedestrian) accidents. The *Marine Safety Act 1998* applies to marine accidents and the *Rail Safety Act 2002* relates to testing of rail employees. Due to the changes to the alcohol and drug test Kits, these Acts have been amended by the *Road Transport (Safety and Traffic Management) Amendment (Blood Sampling) Act 2000*.

A copy of the above Acts and relevant Regulations can be accessed at the NSW Parliamentary Counsel website at: <http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au>

2 Blood Sampling Procedure

The new collection system is manufactured by Sarstedt Australia and has been incorporated into modified blood alcohol, drug and urine test Kits. The S- Monovette vial has a screw top lid although decanting is not recommended by the Department due to the risk of occupational exposure.

Detailed sampling procedure instructions are provided with each 'Kit' and are attached to this Policy Directive. They include instructions for use of the S- Monovette[®] blood collection system (see attachment), and collection, fastening and labelling of the specimen and signing of the appropriate certificate.

Connectors that enable users to collect blood via a luer fitting such as an IV cannula or safety needle or to withdraw blood for other purposes from the S- Monovette system using a conventional syringe will be included in the Kit with instructions provided by Sarstedt (see attachment).

If further information is required on use of the S-Monovette[®] blood collection system a representative from Sarstedt Australia can be contacted by phoning 1800 803 308 during normal business hours.

3 Urine Sampling Procedure

A jug is provided in the Kit for collection of urine. Urine samples will continue to be placed into two screw cap containers provided in the Kit. Detailed sampling procedure instructions are provided with each 'Kit' and include instructions for collection, fastening and labelling of the urine specimens and signing of the appropriate certificate.

4 Healthcare Worker Education

Detailed instructions for using the S Monovette is contained in the Kit, with this Policy Directive and provided on the Department's website. AHSs and individual hospitals are required to ensure that relevant health care workers likely to use the blood alcohol and blood and urine drug test Kits are provided with education prior to use. Areas should nominate a local representative to manage any local questions or concerns regarding the Kit and, if required, to organise staff education by Sarstedt.

Staff can use the 1800 phone number provided above to contact a Sarstedt representative if they require further information regarding the S-Monovette system.

5 Commencement

The commencement date for the *Road Transport (Safety & Traffic Management) Amendment (Blood Sampling) Act 2000* is **April 15 2005**. The current Kit is to be used until April 14 2005, the new Kit must be used from April 15 2005.

6 Replacement and Ordering Details for Kits

The new approved sampling Kit for blood and urine testing must be used for collecting samples and recording the necessary details. Each Kit contains all equipment needed for sampling, packaging and identification of samples and certification by the medical practitioner or nurse.

Approved Kits are available from Q Stores. Orders should specify:

- Blood Alcohol Testing Kits (carton of 50), Item No: 841615; and/or
- Drug Testing (blood and urine) Kits (carton of 2), Item No: 841625.

New approved Blood Alcohol Test Kits and Drug Test Kits are to be purchased by public hospitals under Q Stores item numbers 841615 and 41625. Orders for additional supplies should be submitted in the usual way. Orders may be submitted to the Q Stores by facsimile, Fax (02) 8304 7799. For enquires phone Q Stores on (02) 8304 7777.

Due to health care worker occupational health and safety issues, regulatory requirements and changes to the collection system and certification, health care facilities **must** discard the old style Kits and replace them with the new approved Blood Alcohol and Drug Testing Kits from April 15 2005.

Robyn Kruk
Director General

Instructions for using the S-Monovette® blood collection tube



Align the pins on the S-Monovette® cap with slots in the needle, gently push the S-Monovette® onto the needle immediately prior to blood collection (①) and secure by slightly twisting clockwise (②).



Puncture the vein, loosen the tourniquet and withdraw the plunger slowly until it bottoms and the blood ceases to flow (③).



Remove the S-Monovette® from the needle by turning anti-clockwise (④) and pulling gently (⑤). The needle remains in the vein.

Withdraw the needle from the vein and safely dispose of the needle.

REMEMBER: Remove the S-Monovette® first, then withdraw the needle!

For transportation and centrifugation, pull back the piston and lock into the S-Monovette® base. Break off the plunger (⑥).

Mix the sample thoroughly.

❗ IMPORTANT!



Push the red security cap firmly over the S-Monovette® cap until it "clicks" into position (⑦).

Do not try to unscrew the red security cap otherwise the tamper-evident ring will be broken and separated.

Peel the adhesive label marked "BLOOD SAMPLE" from the backing paper and wrap around the tube (⑧).

Do not cover the barcoded label!

Correct



The S-Monovette® should then be placed in the appropriate yellow capped protective container supplied. The container must be securely capped and then placed in the biohazard bag. Note that the tube will only fit with the red security cap facing the bottom of the container.

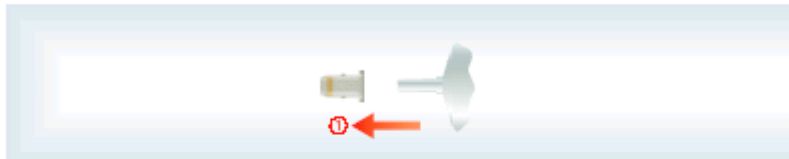
 **SARSTEDT**

Instructions for using S-Monovette® Adapters


Membrane Adapter

This adapter enables the adaptation of an S-Monovette® needle to a luer system (e.g. blood gas Monovette®, syringe, luer adaptors etc.).


To be used if additional blood is required to be collected by a luer system after the S-Monovette® has been removed from the needle.



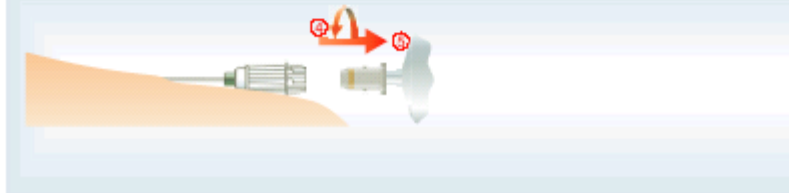
Insert the luer system into the adapter (①).



Align the pins on the adapter with slots in the needle, gently push the luer system onto the needle immediately prior to blood collection (②) and secure by slightly twisting clockwise (③).



Collect a sufficient amount of blood into the luer system.

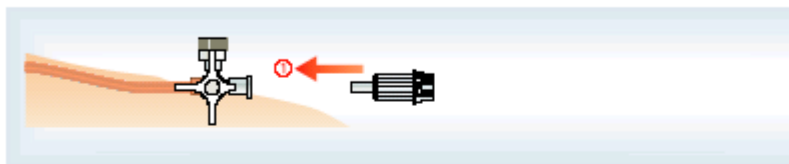


Remove the luer system from the needle by turning anti-clockwise (④) and pulling gently (⑤). The needle remains in the vein. Withdraw the needle from the vein and safely dispose of the needle.
REMEMBER: Remove the luer system first, then withdraw the needle!

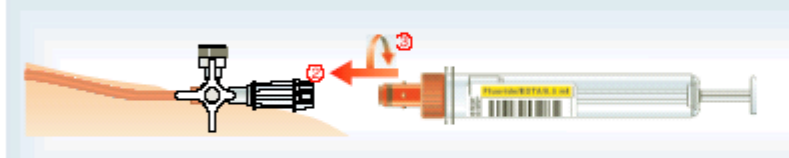
Multi-adapter

This adapter enables the adaptation of the S-Monovette® to a luer system (catheter, Butterfly etc.).


If collecting blood from a catheter please ensure standard Hospital flushing procedures are followed prior to attaching the Multi-adapter and after its removal.



Insert the Multi-adapter onto a catheter (①).



Align the pins on the S-Monovette® with slots in the Multi-adapter, gently push the S-Monovette® onto the Multi-adapter immediately prior to blood collection (②) and secure by slightly twisting clockwise (③).



Withdraw the plunger slowly until it bottoms and the blood ceases to flow.

Refer to illustrations 3 + 4 on the reverse side of this leaflet.