



Regional Emergency Medical Organization

Office of the Medical Director

1653 Central Avenue • Albany, NY 12205

Office 518.464.5097 • Fax 518.464.5099

[www.remo-ems.com](http://www.remo-ems.com)

REMAC ADVISORY 2010 – 06

**Advisory: BLOOD DRAW FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT**

This Advisory takes effect immediately. A DOH Policy Statement will replace this Advisory when issued.

PURPOSE

To assist an Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (Intermediate, Critical Care Technician or Paramedic) when asked to draw blood for the purpose of Blood Alcohol and/or Drug Content Analysis pursuant to NYS Vehicle and Traffic Law 1194(4).

POLICY

1. At no time is patient care to be compromised for the purpose of a blood draw for law enforcement. Do not delay care of any patient to perform a police officer requested blood draw. Unstable patients may not have evidentiary blood samples drawn, if a provider believes it will compromise their medical care, and instead must be transported to the hospital where a blood draw can be performed as needed.
2. If the Advanced EMT has been requested only to draw blood under the Vehicle and Traffic Law, and no obvious medical need exists, the subject of the blood draw should be offered medical care and transport.
3. The Advanced EMT will make a determination of the need for medical care and transportation. If there are any questions, the Advanced EMT should contact a REMO physician and put them in contact with the ranking police officer supervising the arrest.
4. An Advanced EMT may draw blood for the purpose of Blood Alcohol and/or Drug Content Analysis upon request of a police officer. Physician contact is not required.
5. The Advanced EMT is allowed, but not required to perform these blood draws.
6. The Advanced EMT must perform the blood draw in the presence of a police officer.
7. The Advanced EMT must use the kit supplied by a police officer and follow the specific instructions indicated in that kit for the collection of the sample.
  - a. Do not use alcohol on the patient's skin prior to drawing blood samples.
  - b. If the subject is a patient requires vascular access, draw blood tubes for law enforcement prior to attaching intravenous lines or administering intravenous medications.
  - c. If the subject does not require vascular access, draw only the blood tubes requested by the police officer with equipment provided.
  - d. A standard EMS IV catheter may be used in place of the straight needle included in the kit if the EMS provider prefers.