

DOCTORS/NURSES

GUIDANCE NOTES FOR OBTAINING **BLOOD SPECIMENS** UNDER THE ROAD TRAFFIC ACTS

It is the function of the designated doctor /designated nurse to obtain from the person concerned a specimen of blood. It is an offence for the person concerned to refuse or fail to comply with a requirement made by a member of An Garda Síochána under section 12 (b) or section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Act, 2010.

Kits, for the collection of blood specimens, supplied by the Medical Bureau of Road Safety, are available in the Garda Station.

The kit for the collection of a blood specimen is identified by the letter B (in red) on the outside of the cardboard box which contains all the items required for collection and forwarding of the blood specimen.

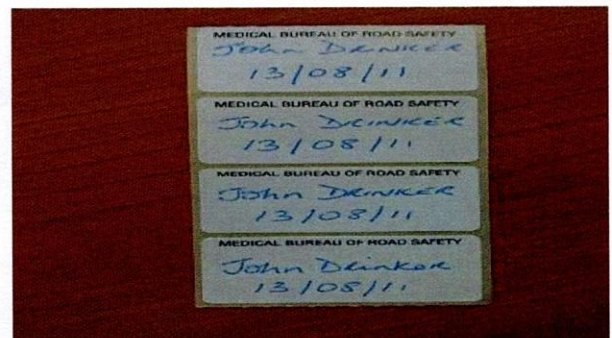
The total contents of the blood kit are as follows:

- Two cylindrical containers
- Two specimen bottles
- An alcohol-free wipe
- Two matching numbered red seals
- The Section 15 form
- A 10ml syringe
- A needle
- A plaster
- Four white labels
- A plastic biohazard bag, containing absorbent material



Use the needle and syringe provided to obtain a blood specimen, eject approximately equal volumes of the specimen into each of the specimen bottles provided, see note (a). Close the bottles firmly by the screw caps and mix by repeated inversion. This will ensure that the anticoagulant and preservative in the bottle will mix thoroughly with the specimens.

- Using **BLOCK CAPITALS** write the **name** of person from whom the specimen was taken, and the **date specimen provided**, on the four white labels, and apply one to each specimen bottle.



MEDICAL BUREAU OF ROAD SAFETY

- Check that the two codes on the red seals match the code on the back of the Section 15 form.



- Place each specimen bottle into a container.
- Seal each container around the join by affixing one of the red seals horizontally ensuring the seal adheres to both parts of the container.
- Place the two remaining white labels on the two containers.
- **Complete all parts of the Section 15 form with BLOCK CAPITALS. Sign the Section 15 form.**
- Hand the Section 15 form and the Containers to the Garda for forwarding to the Medical Bureau of Road Safety.



IMPORTANT:

- The Section 15 form is a legal document and must be completed fully and accurately by the designated doctor or nurse. In signing the document, you are confirming that your obligation under Section 15 of the Road Traffic Act has been fulfilled in accordance with law.

NOTE:

- (a) The kit syringe is 10ml capacity and when the blood sample is divided, two 5ml specimens should be provided. If less than 10ml is obtained the blood sample must be divided in two. Analysis can be attempted on specimens of any volume, the greater the volume allows for more testing.
- (b) If any mishap should occur to labels, seals or forms, a second kit may be opened to obtain whatever is necessary. If this mishap should occur to one or both of the seals, or if one or both of the forms have to be rejected, then a new set of forms and seals should be used so that all four identification numbers correspond. Kits so opened should be handed to the Garda for return to the Medical Bureau.
- (c) In the event of a specimen taken from a driver in hospital, give particular consideration while selecting the site for taking the specimen if the driver is receiving treatment via an access line. The blood sample should ideally be taken from a peripheral site distant to the access line.

The obtaining, handling and disposal of biological specimens and materials should be in accordance with Health & Safety requirements. Please use biological waste bins in the Garda Station.

**** Do not return used needles, syringes or alcohol-free cleansing wipe in the specimen kit box ****