

**Facility Query – Risk Management**  
**November 2006**

**Trauma Resource Network Recommendation (Source Connie Potter):**

If the EMS personnel are employed the hospital and have demonstrated competency with patient identification and labeling specimens, then it is acceptable to received **labeled** blood from them. Their competency to draw blood must meet the standard of care set for by the lab. They should be credentialed by the lab.

If the EMS personnel are not employed by the hospital, it is not common practice for trauma centers to accept blood for testing; in fact it is ill advised. The risk of hemolysis, dilution and patient identification errors when using this blood to make clinical decisions is of concern.

**Practice related to ED's accepting medic blood (Source PA Society of Healthcare Risk Management)**

Facility	Practice	Comments
St.Joseph's Hospital	Paramedic tapes the blood onto the patient or the IV bag. Our staff removes it, labels it and sends it to the lab	
Doylestown Hospital	Labs are labeled by medics. The ED nurse labels with demographic label and writes medic or pre hospital blood draw on the label.	If there is any concern about the results or integrity of the specimen, we redraw.
Sacred Heart Hospital ssh.org Allentown	Only accept medic blood if chain of custody is maintained.	We can't be responsible for the chain prior to the arrival at our facility.
Holy Redeemer Hospital	ED staff do accept Lab specimens drawn by EMS staff and do send these specimens to our Lab for processing. The EMS (Rescue) phlebotomist will label the specimen(s) with the patient name, date, and the EMS initials or name and mark RESCUE draw. EMS will identify patient and the specimens and hand them to the receiving RN. The RN will identify the patient and add ED label with MR# etc. marking specimens as RESCUE DRAW.	Laboratory policy regarding Rescue blood draw only stipulates that "Rescue blood draws are NOT acceptable for Blood Bank requests. "Rescue" blood draws are acceptable for general laboratory requests.
Nazareth Hospital	The ED does not use paramedic draws blood. The person drawing must sticker, label and initial at the bedside.	The Phila paramedics at first were up set but now they are happy and do not drawn.
Riddle Memorial Hospital	Our Riddle Paramedics have a standard that they do not draw blood pre-hospital. Occasionally medics from other hospitals that come here will give us blood; we don't accept it unless it is labeled, but usually we discard it and draw our own.	There were too many problems with hemolysis/wrong tubes being collected etc.
Lower Bucks Hospital	The medic has to identify the bloods with the nurse at the bedside. The nurse will ask the patient their full name and birth date. Then the labels are placed on the tubes with checking the patient ID bracelet against the sticker.	

**Practice related to ED's accepting medic blood (Source ED Benchmarking Group)**

Facility	Practice	Comments
Maimonides Med. Ctr. New York City	We do accept blood drawn by EMS and labeled by them-- they handwrite information on the label. We relabel with our labels. We do this only for basic testing, not blood bank.	We've come to question the practice and may end up giving it up in which case some of EMS providers have indicated they would stop doing blood draws beyond one tube for their use.
Jim Augustine	We do accept and use EMS blood draws, for everything but blood bank and Chain of Custody labs.	EMS that is well known to our system provides reliable sources of blood, and it improves timeliness of care.
Medical College of Georgia	We do not accept blood from EMS	Reasons why blood is not accepted from EMS: a) the tubes are not labeled by them

		b) some of their tubes are outdated (as far as we know)
York Hospital York PA	York Hospital does not use this blood	
Saint Rita's Medical Center Lima OH	Our ED does accept blood drawn by EMS. EMS labels the blood either by writing on the tubes themselves or they use our ED Stickers which are printed up within a couple of minutes of patient arrival.	