

Jackson County Medical Control Authority
Community Paramedicine Protocols
I-STAT

Date: October 2014

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I-STAT

Indications: This protocol provides guidance for obtaining I-STAT values on the request of the PCP under the Community Paramedicine Program.

The CPU will respond to a residence for I-STAT value determination on a request from the primary care provider, on request by the patient through 911 triage or on referral from ALS 911 response.

Purpose: To assist the medical provider in obtaining certain blood laboratory values while in the patients home. Communicate with the primary care provider or on-line medical direction on the condition of the patient as well as on the I-STAT values determined and continuity plan.

CPU Directives:

1. Follow **General Protocol for CPU Patient Assessments** as indicated.
2. Obtain and review patient health history and primary care provider's orders prior to evaluation when available.
3. Using universal precautions, obtain sample of patient's venous blood with use of a butterfly needle of at least 20 g and a green top blood tube.
4. Roll the tube back and forth in hands at least 5 (five) times.
5. Using a 1 cc syringe with at least a 20-gauge needle, withdraw 1 cc blood from the green top tube.
6. Expel 2 drops of blood from the syringe prior to filling I-STAT chamber.
7. Remove cartridge from the package handling the cartridge from the sides only.
8. Place cartridge on a flat surface.
9. Fill the cartridge with the blood sample only to the appropriate level as marked on the cartridge.
10. Close cover over sample well.
11. Turn on I-STAT and enter operator and patient ID numbers.
12. Insert cartridge into analyzer (Do not remove while "cartridge locked" message is on).
13. Record the results on the EPCR and communicate the results to the PCP or on-line medical direction.

Precautions

1. Avoid drawing blood from an arm with an IV already in place as this will dilute the sample and may interfere with test results.
2. Venous stasis as with prolonged tourniquet application may alter lab results.
3. Avoid having the patient use extra muscle activity such as clenching the fist as this may increase potassium results.

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Special Notes

1. Cartridges are good for two (2) weeks at room temperature.
2. Lab results will not be interpreted in the field alone and will always be sent to the referring PCP or on-line medical direction.
3. If the CP notices a possible life threatening abnormal lab value, they will immediately contact the referring PCP or on-line medical direction to discuss the results and determine treatment and disposition.