

# Idaho State Police Forensic Services

## Blood Specimen Collection Instructions for Medical Personnel

### ATTENTION:

- ISPFS provides these steps for instruction. Not following these steps as outlined does not necessarily invalidate the collection, evidentiary value, or laboratory testing of the blood.
- Qualified personnel (e.g. a trained phlebotomist, nurse, or physician) must perform blood specimen collection.

Step 1 ISPFS provides a collection kit with supplies recommended for the blood collection. Remove components from ISPFS provided kit box.

Step 2 Cleanse the blood collection site with the alcohol-free prep pad provided. If a different pad is used, please note on the ISPFS Toxicology Submittal Form the type of sterilizing pad utilized.

Step 3 Following your hospital/clinical procedure, withdraw blood samples from the subject. Ideally, allow both tubes to fill to maximum volume. If maximum volume is not possible, please obtain as much blood in the provided tubes as possible in the situation. The amount of blood generally needed for lab testing (the minimal amount will allow for lab testing, but may not leave evidence for retesting) is:

- Alcohol testing—a minimum of one tube filled at least a quarter of the way up.
- Toxicology testing-- a minimum of one tube filled at least half-way up.

Step 4 Immediately after blood collection, ensure proper mixing of the anticoagulant/preservative powder by gently inverting the blood tubes at least 5 times (180 degrees and back is one time). Do not shake vigorously.

**\*\*Do not return used needle, prep pad, or shielded blood collection needle adapter to kit box. Discard these items using the recommended OSHA guidelines.**

**\*\*If a new tube is necessary due to an unsuccessful collection attempt, open another ISPFS blood collection kit and utilize as many tubes or other supplies as needed from the new kit to complete your collection.**