



COUNTY OF VENTURA HEALTH CARE AGENCY		EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES POLICIES AND PROCEDURES	
Policy Title: Patients After Conducted Electrical Weapon (TASER) Use		Policy Number: 725	
APPROVED: Administration:	 Steven L. Carroll, Paramedic	Date: December 1, 2019	
APPROVED: Medical Director	 Daniel Shepherd, M.D.	Date: December 1, 2019	
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- I. PURPOSE: To provide a framework for the pre-hospital treatment and transport of patients after TASER deployment.

- II. AUTHORITY: Health and Safety Code, Sections 1797.214, 1797.220, 1798, and 1798.200, California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Section 100169.

- III. POLICY: Law enforcement officers may remove the TASER probes and may choose to transport individuals in custody to an emergency department. On occasion, EMS personnel may be called to evaluate, treat and/or transport patients with or without the TASER probes in place.
 - A. When requested by law enforcement and absent any contraindications as outlined in policy, TASER probes may be removed by EMS personnel.
 - B. If EMS transport is indicated or requested by law enforcement EMS personnel should transport to the closest receiving facility, appropriate specialty care facility, or the hospital requested by law enforcement.

- IV. PROCEDURE:
 - A. Be sure the scene has been deemed safe and secured by law enforcement before evaluating and treating the patient.
 - B. Before touching any patient where the Taser has been deployed, ensure law enforcement has disconnected cartridge from the handheld unit.
 - C. Any injuries or medical conditions will be treated according to the appropriate treatment protocol.
 - D. If the transporting paramedic determines that the patient is a risk to him/herself and/or the ambulance personnel, law enforcement officer(s) may be requested to accompany the patient.

E. TASER Probe Removal:

If one or both of the TASER probes requires removal for safe transportation or if removal requested by law enforcement:

1. Procedure must be witnessed by the arresting law enforcement officer. Identify the appropriate officer and confirm they are ready to witness the procedure.
2. Verify the cartridge has been removed from the handle or has been cut.
3. Used taser probes shall be considered a sharp biohazard, similar to used hypodermic needle. Standard safety precautions should be taken.
4. Place one hand on the patient in the area where the probe is embedded and stabilize the skin surrounding the puncture site between two fingers. With your other hand, in one fluid motion pull the probe straight out from the puncture site.
5. Reinsert TASER probes, point down, into the discharged air cartridge and hand it to the law enforcement officer.
6. Use appropriate antiseptic wipe to cleanse the skin surrounding the puncture site.
7. Apply direct pressure for bleeding and apply a sterile dressing to the wound site.
8. Assess for any injuries that may need medical attention and seek appropriate level of care.

F. Contraindications:

1. If the Taser has penetrated a sensitive area (e.g. head, face, neck, hand bone, axilla, groin, female breast), Do NOT remove the probe as injury may occur to bone, nerves, blood vessels, or an eye. Transport the patient to the ED in an appropriate position.

G. Documentation:

1. Any EMS incidents resulting from TASER deployment or probe removal will be documented in the Ventura County Electronic Patient Care Reporting System Refer to policy 1000: Documentation of Prehospital Care.
2. Incidents that do not result in EMS transport will be documented as outlined in VCEMS policy 603: Refusal of EMS Services.
3. If TASER probes are removed by EMS personnel documentation will include that procedure as well as the requesting law enforcement officer and/or agency.