

COUNTY OF VENTURA HEALTH CARE AGENCY		EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES POLICIES AND PROCEDURES	
Policy Title: Patient Medications		Policy Number 624	
APPROVED: Administration:	 Steven L. Carroll, Paramedic	Date: December 1, 2015	
APPROVED: Medical Director:	 Angelo Salvucci, M.D.	Date: December 1, 2015	
Origination Date:	December 6, 2006		
Date Revised:	August 13, 2015		
Date Last Reviewed:	August 13, 2015	Effective Date: December 1, 2015	
Next Review Date:	August, 2018		

- I. **PURPOSE:** To establish a procedure for locating, identifying, and transporting medications in order to assist in the prompt and accurate hospital evaluation and treatment of patients.
- II. **AUTHORITY:** Health and Safety Code, Section 1797.220, and 1798; California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Section 100175.
- III. **POLICY:**
 - A. Reasonable efforts are to be made to determine the essential information for all medications: name, strength, dose, route, frequency, and time of last dose.
 - B. For patients who do not know this information, either a detailed list or the medications in their original containers will be taken with the patient to the hospital whenever possible.
 - C. Medications include all prescriptions, nutritional and herbal supplements, over-the-counter preparations, pumps, patches, inhalers, drops, sprays, suppositories, creams or ointments.
- IV. **PROCEDURE:**
 - A. For patients who do not know all of the essential information on all of their medications, either a list of medications with essential information or the medications in the original containers should be taken to the hospital.
 - B. If unable to locate the original labeled medication containers, pills in unlabeled containers or pills not in containers will be taken.
 - C. If the patient or family objects to turning over the medication to EMS personnel, the family must be told of their importance and instructed to take them to the emergency department promptly.
 - D. Medications taken to the hospital are to be turned over to an identified individual hospital staff person.

- E. Hospital staff is responsible for returning the medications to patient or family.
- F. EMS personnel must document all actions in the Ventura County Electronic Patient Care Reporting (VCePCR) system, including discussing medications, taking them to the hospital, the person to whom they were turned over, and explain if unable to obtain essential information or medications.