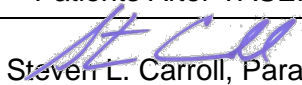



COUNTY OF VENTURA HEALTH CARE AGENCY		EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES POLICIES AND PROCEDURES	
Policy Title: Patients After TASER Use		Policy Number: 725	
APPROVED: Administration:	 Steven L. Carroll, Paramedic	Date: December 1, 2011	
APPROVED: Medical Director	 Angelo Salvucci, MD, FACEP	Date: December 1, 2011	
Origination Date:	August 10, 2006	Effective Date: December 1, 2011	
Date Revised:	August 11, 2011		
Date Last Reviewed:	October 9, 2014		
Next Review Date:	October, 2016		

- I. PURPOSE: To define the treatment and transportation of the patient on whom a TASER has been used.
- 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: It is the policy of the Ventura County Sheriff's Department that all persons on whom a TASER is used be medically cleared prior to incarceration. Law enforcement officers may remove the TASER probes and may transport individuals in custody to an emergency department. On occasion, EMS personnel may be called to evaluate and transport patients with or without the probes in place.
  - A. TASER probes should not be removed by EMS personnel unless they interfere with the safe transportation of the patient.
  - B. Patients should be transported to the closest available hospital or the hospital requested by the law enforcement officer.
- IV. PROCEDURE:
  - A. When safe to do so, patients should be immediately evaluated, with particular attention to signs and symptoms of excited delirium.
  - B. Any injuries or medical conditions will be treated according to the appropriate treatment protocol.
  - C. These patients will be in the custody of law enforcement and will require transportation to an emergency department for medical clearance.
  - 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. Unless otherwise contraindicated, the patient should be adequately and safely restrained in an upright position prior to transport. Please see VCEMS Policy 732.
  - F. If one or both of the TASER probes requires removal for safe transportation:

1. Verify the wires to the probes have been severed.
  2. Use routine biohazard precautions.
  3. 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. Keep your hand several inches away from the probe. With your other hand, in one fluid motion pull the probe straight out from the puncture site.
  4. Reinsert TASER probes, point down, into the discharged air cartridge and hand it to the law enforcement officer.
  5. Apply direct pressure for bleeding, and apply a sterile dressing to the wound site.
- G. If the TASER may be in a dangerous area (e.g., face, neck, hand, bone, groin or spinal column), where it may injure bone, nerves, blood vessels, or an eye, do NOT remove the probe. Transport the patient to the ED in an appropriate position.
- H. Refer to Policy 705: Behavioral Emergencies if patient requires sedation.