

# Monterey County EMS System Policy



Policy Number: 4050  
Effective Date: 7/1/2019  
Review Date: 6/30/2022

## PSYCHIATRIC EVALUATION-5150 TRANSPORTS

### I. POLICY

Monterey County Emergency Medical Services Agency, in compliance with CA Welfare & Institutions code, establishes the following procedure to facilitate safe assessment and transportation of individuals placed on involuntary holds (referred to herein as “5150 holds”), for persons who are a danger to themselves; danger to others, and/or gravely disabled due to mental health disorders.

**Persons authorized to initiate 5150 holds in Monterey County are:**

- A. Law Enforcement
- B. All physicians licensed by the Medical Board of California who live in or practice in Monterey County
- C. Designated Monterey County Behavioral Health (MCBH) mental health professionals

### II. PROCEDURE


- A. EMS personnel shall perform a complete assessment on any patient who has been placed on a 5150 hold prior to transport.
- B. EMS personnel shall base treatment and transport destination decisions on the patient’s medical and psychiatric condition.
- C. Patients presenting with acute medical conditions and/or traumatic injury shall be transported to the closest and most appropriate emergency department.
- D. Patients that DO NOT present with acute medical conditions and/or traumatic injury shall be transported per the following:
  - 1. Patients placed on a 5150 hold by an authorized behavioral health specialist, to the Emergency Department of the behavioral health specialist’s request.
  - 2. EMS personnel shall transport patients placed on a 5150 hold by law enforcement officers, without the aid of a behavioral health specialist requesting a destination, to Natividad Medical Center or the Community Hospital of Monterey Peninsula.
- E. EMS personnel shall obtain the completed 5150 form PRIOR to patient transport.
- F. EMS Personnel shall transport all patients placed on a 5150 hold in compliance with Monterey County EMS Agency Policy 4508: USE OF RESTRAINT.

***Patient restraints SHALL not be imposed as a means of coercion, discipline, convenience, or retaliation by EMS staff.***

**END OF POLICY**

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Stubblefield, M.D.". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

James Stubblefield, M.D., FACEP  
EMS Medical Director

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mike Petrie". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Michael Petrie, EMT-P, MBA, MA  
EMS Bureau Chief