

Monterey County EMS System Policy



Policy Number: 4110
Effective Date: 7/1/2017
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ORGAN DONOR

I. PURPOSE

Section 7150.55 of the Health and Safety Code, Division 7, Chapter 3.5 requires emergency medical personnel to make a reasonable search for a document of anatomical gift, or other information identifying the patient as a donor or an individual who has refused to make an anatomical gift. Sections 7150.10 and 7150.15 also apply to this policy.

II. DEFINITIONS

- A. Imminent Death. A condition wherein illness or injuries are of such severity that in the professional opinion of EMS personnel, death will probably occur before the patient arrives at the receiving hospital. This definition does not include any conscious patient regardless of the severity of illness or injury.
- B. Reasonable Search. A brief attempt by EMS personnel to locate documentation that may identify a patient as a potential organ donor, or one who has refused to make an anatomical gift. This search shall be limited to a wallet or purse that is on or near the individual, or to locate a driver's license or other ID card with donor status information.
- C. Organ Donor. An individual whose body or part is the subject of an anatomical gift.

III. POLICY

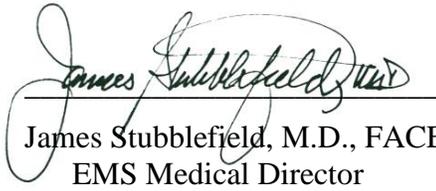
- A. Emergency medical treatment and transport of the patient is the highest priority and a search for organ donor authorization/refusal shall not interfere with patient care activities.
- B. EMS personnel shall attempt, when practical, to locate documentation that indicates whether an individual desires to be an organ or tissue donor.

IV. PROCEDURE

- A. All patients require immediate medical evaluation. The search for organ donor information shall not interfere with patient care activities.
- B. When EMS personnel encounter an unconscious adult patient for whom it appears death is imminent, they shall attempt a reasonable search of the patient's belongings to determine if the individual carries information indicating the patient's status as an organ donor. This search must be done in the presence of a witness, preferably a law enforcement officer.
- C. If documentation is found to indicate that the patient desires to be an organ donor, this documentation shall be brought with the patient to the receiving hospital. If a law enforcement officer on scene requests to take possession of the documentation, the documentation shall be provided to the officer and verbal notice made to the receiving

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hospital staff. If the patient is not transported to the hospital, the documentation shall remain with the patient.


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


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