

Monterey County EMS System Policy



Policy Number: 4508
Effective Date: 7/1/2019
Review Date: 6/30/2022

USE OF RESTRAINT

I. PURPOSE:

To direct standards for the use of restraints for all patients that have been placed on an involuntary psychiatric hold (referred to herein a “5150 holds”), present a danger to themselves or others as determined by EMS or other authorized personnel, and for patients needing medical attention that are in Law Enforcement custody.

II. POLICY:

The following principles must be followed when utilizing patient restraints:

- A. Restraints shall be humanely and professionally applied to protect the patient’s safety and dignity.
- B. The method of restraint should be the least restrictive necessary for the safety of the patient and others.
- C. The use of restraints shall be thoroughly documented. Such documentation shall include the reasons for and means of restraint and the regular assessment of the restrained patient.
- D. Assessment of patient condition shall be conducted and documented at a minimum of every 15 minutes. Documentation shall include perfusion, neurologic function, and skin condition of distal extremities.

III. PROCEDURE:

Patients who have been placed on a 5150 hold; have demonstrated behavior of being a danger to self or others by EMS personnel; present to EMS in restraints at the sending facility; are in Law Enforcement custody and require EMS personnel to transport- shall be restrained to the gurney utilizing a minimum of two-point (e.g. one wrist one ankle, or two wrists) restraints for the duration of the transport.

EMS personnel shall obtain the COMPLETED 5150 form PRIOR to patient transport.

EMS personnel discretion may be used for patients who are:

- A. <100lbs (45kg)
- B. <12 years of age
- C. >75 years of age

In these circumstances, the decision to utilize restraints rely on EMS personnel’s ability to safely control an unrestrained patient should he/she become unpredictably violent in the back of a moving vehicle.

Decisions to not apply restraints that fall outside of these criteria shall be cleared by EMS personnel's On-Duty Supervisor.

- A. The patient must be securely restrained to the gurney PRIOR to placing the patient in the ambulance.
- B. In addition to restraints, all patients shall be secured to the gurney utilizing all appropriate standard safety belts.
- C. EMS personnel shall only restrain patients in a manner that allows the rapid access to the airway, full expansion of lungs during respiration, and rapid initiation of CPR.
- D. EMS personnel shall be securely positioned in the transport vehicle in such a way that safety buckles and restraints are visible at all times.
- E. Safety buckles and restraints shall be monitored continually throughout transport; allowing early intervention by EMS personnel should a patient attempt removal of safety buckles and restraints.
- F. The patient shall remain in restraints until safely inside the receiving facility.
- G. The use of chemical restraint by **DOES NOT** satisfy the need for application of physical restraints. **ALL PATIENTS** that have been chemically sedated due to his/her behavior shall also be restrained, as per this policy.

IV. PATIENTS IN LAW ENFORCEMENT CUSTODY

When EMS personnel encounter a patient that is in law enforcement custody and in need of transport, law enforcement will determine the level of restraint in conjunction with EMS personnel.

- A. EMS personnel shall require the law enforcement officer to accompany the patient in the back of the ambulance to the receiving facility with each patient that is under arrest and in handcuffs.
 - 1. EMS personnel are **NOT** authorized to use handcuffs or manage the restraint of a patient placed in handcuffs.
- B. A law enforcement officer may follow the ambulance in a patrol car to the receiving facility if the patient has been restrained with cloth or leather restraints.

Patient restraints shall never be imposed as a means of coercion, discipline, convenience, or retaliation by EMS personnel.

V. PATIENT ESCAPE:

Should a patient escape from restraint and exit the ambulance, the following steps should be initiated:

- A. Do everything possible to minimize injury to EMS personnel, and patient.
- B. Contact EMS Communications **immediately** and advise of the situation, location, and status of patient.

- C. EMS Communications shall notify Monterey County EMS Duty Officer immediately upon notification of incident.
- D. Attempt to maintain visual contact with the patient as long as possible.
- E. Update EMS Communications as needed.
- F. Remain at the scene until cleared by law enforcement or the On-Duty Supervisor.
- G. Each crew member must complete a detailed incident report in addition the EPCR.

VI. DOCUMENTATION:

When a patient is transported with restraints, the following information must be documented:

- A. The reason for use (danger to self/others, risk/history of violence, etc.).
- B. The type used.
- C. Distal neurovascular status (circulation, sensation, motor function) at a minimum of every 15 minutes.
- D. Concern expressed by a patient, family member, or sending/receiving facility staff must be clearly documented.

VII. NOTES

Please refer to Monterey County EMS Agency Policy #4050- Psychiatric Evaluation- 5150 Transports, and Protocol N-1: Chemical Sedation for further guidance.

END OF POLICY



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