

Purpose: To assure that patients who have been tasered are assessed and treated properly, and removal of probes by EMS system providers can be done safely.

- I. Assessment of a patient who has been tasered
 - a. Identify the location of the probes on the patient's body. If any of the probes are embedded in the following areas do not remove them and transport the patient immediately to the Emergency Department.
 - i. Face
 - ii. Neck
 - iii. Groin
 - iv. Spinal Column
 - b. Confer with the law enforcement officer and determine the patient's condition from the time of the taser discharge until EMS arrival.
 - c. Assess vital signs, including EKG monitoring for potential cardiac abnormalities. If greater than 35 years of age, consider a 12-lead EKG.
 - d. Determine from the patient:
 - i. Last Tetanus Shot
 - ii. Any Cardiac History
 - iii. Any ingestion of a mild-altering stimulant (medication, drugs, alcohol, etc.)
 - e. Document all of the above findings thoroughly in your patient care report.
- II. Removal of Probe by EMS Provider
 - a. If the probes are located in an area NOT specified above, they can be removed by an EMS provider (all levels).
 - i. Place one hand on the patient in the area where the probe is embedded and stabilize the skin surrounding the puncture site. Place your other hand firmly around the probe.
 - ii. In one fluid motion, pull the probe straight out from the puncture site.
 - iii. Repeat the procedure with the second probe.
 - b. Removed probes should be handled as contaminated sharps and should be placed in a container that cannot be punctured. Return the probes to the law enforcement officer as evidence.
- III. Treatment and Follow-Up Instructions
 - a. Cleanse puncture sites and bandage as appropriate.
 - b. If patient has not had a tetanus shot within the last five (5) years, advise that they should acquire one as soon as possible.

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- c. If the patient is combative and may require chemical restraints, they must be transported to the Emergency Department.
- d. All patients with altered mental status will require a full assessment and Emergency Department evaluation.

AUTHENTICATION AND APPROVAL

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