



Section 14: Appendix 2: Medical Procedures

SECTION 14: TASERED PATIENT

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ALL PATIENTS SUBJECTED TO TASER USE MUST BE TRANSPORTED TO THE HOSPITAL FOR MEDICAL EVALUATION.

INDICATIONS

- Any patient that was subjected to taser use.

PROCEDURE

1. Follow Universal Patient Care Protocol.
2. Confer with law enforcement officer regarding the patient's behavior prior to EMS arrival.
3. Refer to the appropriate medical protocol if the patient has a life-threatening injury or medical illness or continues to be combative.
4. Determine the location of the Taser probes. Do not remove probes unless they interfere with patient care.
5. Perform a 12-Lead EKG and continuously monitor the patient's EKG. If the patient has a dysrhythmia, refer to the appropriate protocol.

KEY POINTS

- With the increased use and deployment of TASERs by our area's local law enforcement agencies, EMS providers must be aware of the appropriate medical assessment of the tasered patient. The TASER is designed to transmit electrical impulses that temporarily disrupt the body's central nervous system. Its Electro-Muscular Disruption (EMD) Technology causes an uncontrollable contraction of the muscle tissue, allowing the TASER to physically debilitate a target regardless of pain tolerance or mental focus.
- All patients subjected to taser use must be assessed for trauma and medical causes for the combative behavior.
- Always apply the cardiac monitor and obtain a strip for patients with irregular / abnormal pulse, elderly, pacemaker, AICD, known CAD, and excited delirium.
- The patient's vital signs must be reassessed every 5 minutes.
- Determine if the patient used any mind altering drugs, has a cardiac history, and the date of their last tetanus shot.
- The cord or wire may be cut, but leave the probes embedded in the patient.
- Removal of the probe. (Remove one at a time).
- Stabilize the skin surrounding the puncture site by placing one hand by where the probe is embedded.
- Pull the probe straight out from the puncture site in one fluid motion.
- TASER barbs that do penetrate the skin and are removed in the field are to be treated as "contaminated sharps" and are to be placed in an appropriate sharps container. Use small single use containers as law enforcement may wish to hold custody of the barbs after removal.