



## *EMS Special Memorandum - #07-001*

Date: January 22, 2007

To: Mendocino/Napa/Sonoma County Law Enforcement Agencies  
Mendocino/Napa/Sonoma County EMS Providers  
Mendocino/Napa/Sonoma County Hospitals  
Mendocino/Napa/Sonoma County Fire Agencies

From: Bryan Cleaver  
Regional EMS Administrator

William Teufel, MD  
Regional EMS Medical Director

**Re: Taser Barb Removal and "Medical Clearance"**

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This EMS Special Memorandum clarifies situations involving law enforcement personnel requesting EMS personnel to remove Taser electrodes from individuals in police custody.

Per CVEMS Policy, EMS personnel are not authorized to remove the barbed electrodes from individuals in police custody. Furthermore, when EMS personnel are requested to evaluate individuals who have been barbed and/or received an electrical shock from a Taser, or similar electroshock device, they will perform a field evaluation **and** will transport to the closest appropriate medical facility for additional evaluation.

Please advise your staff that EMS personnel within the Coastal Valleys EMS Agency region will not remove barbed electrodes or provide "medical clearance" for transport to detention centers.

**All EMS responses for Tasered patients in police custody will result in:**

- **Field medical evaluations**
- **Barbs left in place, and**
- **Patient transport by ambulance to appropriate medical facility**