

Western Regional Emergency Medical Advisory Committee

Title: Taser Probe Removal	Policy # 2018-3
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Effective Date:	06/20/18								
Reviewed:									
Updated:									

Policy:	<p>On occasion EMS providers may be faced with a patient in police custody who has had a conducted electrical weapon (Taser) utilized on them to help law enforcement officers (LEO) gain control. Taser barbs pierce the skin and have a fishhook-like “needle” which keeps the taser probe attached to the subject while the taser is deployed.</p> <p>Typically, these probes are removed by the LEO’s at the scene. If EMS is called upon to assist, removal of the taser probe is within the scope of care for all levels of EMT care <i>provided that the barb is not embedded in the eye, face, neck, breast (females), or genitals of the subject.</i> If the probe is embedded in one of these areas, the patient should be transported to the emergency department for removal.</p> <p>A video demonstrating Taser probe removal can be viewed via the link in the reference section below.</p>
Procedure:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After ensuring that the electrical current is disconnected, cut the wires at the base of the probe that is attached to the skin • CONTRAINDICATIONS TO REMOVAL: Probe penetrated the eye, face, neck, breasts (females), or genitals. • Wearing gloves, use the fingers of one hand to stretch and stabilize the skin around the probe. • With the other hand, grasp the cylinder of the TASER probe between the thumb and index finger. • Remove the probe with a quick, firm pull directed perpendicular to the skin surface. • If the probes are not going to be collected and maintained for evidence by the LEO, dispose of the probe in a sharps container, being careful not to poke oneself with the probe. • Repeat this step for each embedded probe. • Clean the wound and dress the wounds as appropriate.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If after successful removal of the TASER probes, the patient may refuse medical treatment and/or transportation if they meet criteria established in the WREMAC Refusal of Evaluation, Treatment, & Transport Policy and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Patient has no other acute medical or psychiatric condition requiring medical evaluation, such as: Traumatic injury sustained in taser induced fall or police encounter, hypoglycemia, acute psychiatric disturbance or agitated/excited delirium syndrome - Patient is 18 years of age or older - Patient has had tetanus booster in last ten years. If tetanus status is unknown, the patient may be taken to hospital by police if all other treat and release criteria are met. (Police are to be informed that it is the responsibility of the police service to ensure that the patient receives a tetanus booster within 72 hours. This advice must be documented of the PCR.) - All probes which have been deployed are accounted for
<p>Reference:</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2014 WREMAC Protocols 2. WREMAC Refusal of Evaluation, Treatment, & Transport Policy 3. “Taser X26 Probe Removal”. Axon. (2013, December 18). Retrieved from: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9BIEjp93r5o