

TASER/STUN DEVICE PATIENT MANAGEMENT

1. Purpose: Purpose: This policy shall be followed when evaluating Taser/Stun Device patients.
2. Definitions:
 - 2.1. Taser Device: means any device which is powered by electrical charging units, such as batteries, and which fires one or several barbs attached to a length of wire and which, upon hitting a human, can send out a current capable of disrupting a person's nervous system in such a manner as to render him incapable of normal functioning.
 - 2.2. Stun Device: means any weapon or other device (except taser devices), which emits an electrical charge or current intended to temporarily or permanently disable a person.
3. Policy:
 - 3.1. All Taser and/or Stun Device patients that have been evaluated by LaSalle Ambulance paramedics shall be transported to the most appropriate hospital for further medical evaluation to rule out any underlying serious medical conditions.
4. Management:
 - 4.1. Calm the patient and limit movement.
 - 4.2. Disconnect the patient from the device.
 - 4.3. Conduct a neurological and vascular exam of the area impacted by the darts/barbs.
 - 4.4. If the darts/barbs are located in a sensitive area, such as the face, neck, groin, bone, or spinal area; DO NOT remove the darts/barbs. For all other areas, dart/barb removal can be considered (see **Dart/Barb Removal Procedure** below).
 - 4.5. Monitor the patient's vital signs continuously, including:
 - 4.5.1. Airway, breathing, and circulation
 - 4.5.2. Pulse
 - 4.5.3. Blood Pressure
 - 4.5.4. ECG/12 lead ECG
 - 4.5.5. Pulse Oximetry
 - 4.6. Check for associated injuries.
 - 4.7. Consider **IV Procedure**.
 - 4.8. Consider **PAIN MANAGEMENT Protocol**.
 - 4.9. For situations where ingestion of toxic substances or GCS <15: refer to **OVERDOSE TOXIC INGESTION Protocol** &/or **ALTERED MENTAL STATUS Protocol**.
5. Dart/Barb Removal Procedure
 - 5.1. Perform the Management steps listed above prior to dart/barb removal.
 - 5.2. Place one hand on the patient where the dart/barb is embedded and stabilize the skin surrounding the puncture site.
 - 5.3. With the other hand, firmly grip the dart/barb and pull with a quick fluid motion.
 - 5.4. Repeat 5.2 and 5.3 for any other embedded darts/barbs.
 - 5.5. Cleanse the puncture site(s) with alcohol prep and bandage appropriately.
6. Special Considerations
 - 6.1. For situations where a law enforcement officer requests a field medical evaluation without transport to an emergency department for further evaluation for a taser/stun patient, the officer shall be advised of this policy by the paramedic and Medical Control shall be contacted if further assistance is required.
 - 6.2. For patients that are under arrest, a law enforcement officer must accompany the patient in the unit module or escort the unit to the hospital.