

Medical Control Guideline: CONDUCTED ELECTRICAL WEAPON

PRINCIPLE:

1. Safety is the first priority in any situation involving the use of a conducted electrical weapon (CEW), trade name Taser[®]. Law enforcement should secure the scene and ensure the safety of EMS personnel before the patient is assessed or treated.
2. Aggressive or violent behavior may be symptomatic of medical conditions such as head trauma, alcohol or drug related problems, metabolic disorders, stress or psychiatric problems.
3. Concurrent intoxication with cocaine, methamphetamine, phencyclidine (PCP), or other stimulants is common among those subdued by law enforcement with electrical weapons.
4. Physical assessment should include evaluation for any potential injury that may have occurred as a result of the use of a CEW.
5. Paramedics cannot medically clear CEW patients for booking by law enforcement.

GUIDELINES:

1. Do not remove CEW barbs, probes or darts unless they interfere with the patient's airway, for life-saving measures, or the individual cannot be safely transported with the barbs in place.
2. Complete a thorough physical assessment for all patients who have sustained the use of a CEW.
3. Maintain a high index of suspicion for traumatic injuries (i.e., sustained from fall) as a result of the deployment and discharge of the CEW.
4. Paramedics shall make Base Hospital Contact and transport in accordance with the protocol appropriate for the Provider Impression. For isolated CEW injury, the appropriate Provider Impression is Traumatic Injury.
5. Document on the Patient Care Report.