



EMS Information Bulletin- #032

DATE: November 10, 2005

SUBJECT: Treatment of Patients Exposed to TASER®, Non-Lethal Device

TO: EMS Practitioners
Ambulance Services
Medical Command Facilities and Physicians
EMS Medical Directors

FROM: Emergency Medical Services Office
Pa Department of Health
(717) 787-8740

The Pennsylvania Department of Health Emergency Medical Services Office (EMS Office) has received many inquiries regarding the TASER®, non-lethal devices for use in the law enforcement, military, private security and personal defense markets. In an effort to provide the Emergency Medical Services in the Commonwealth guidance in treating individuals who have been tased, the EMS Office has prepared the following information.

- ❑ If a police department requests assistance from an Emergency Medical Service organization, the unit shall respond as requested by the Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP). Upon arrival, the patient should be assessed and treated by utilizing the appropriate treatment protocol. All patients who have been tased *should be transported* to the appropriate emergency department. The Emergency Medical Service practitioners shall not medically clear and individual in the prehospital setting.
- ❑ If the patient meets the guidelines for refusal of care and or treatment, a patient may refuse treatment and all applicable documentation shall be secured prior to departing the scene. Medical Command shall be contacted as appropriate based on protocol or as needed by the prehospital providers.
- ❑ If a patient was tased, law enforcement should accompany the patient during transport if the patient is agitated or if there is any concern for the safety of the EMS practitioners. (See BLS Protocol 801 Agitated Behavior/Psychiatric Disorders)

- The TASER® delivers electric impulses through probes. These probes are shot into the patient. These probes should be treated as impaled objects and not removed unless they are affecting the airway, or may prevent life saving treatment.

Please forward any questions regarding this issue to paemsoffice@state.pa.us .