

EL DORADO COUNTY EMS AGENCY

FIELD POLICIES

Effective: July 1, 2012

Reviewed: April 2012

Revised: July 1, 2016, 2018

Scope: BLS and ALS Personnel



EMS Agency Medical Director

PATIENTS UNDER A 5150 HOLD

AUTHORITY:

State of California Welfare and Institutions Code, Section 5150-5157.

PURPOSE:

To define criteria and establish guidelines to be followed when a patient is a danger to themselves or to others; or is gravely disabled as a result of a mental disorder. For psychiatric IFT see separate policy.

DEFINITIONS:

5150 - When any person is determined by law enforcement or Psychiatric Emergency Services staff to be a danger to self, others, or gravely disabled as a result of a mental disorder, that person may be detained for up to 72 hours for evaluation and treatment in a 5150-designated psychiatric facility.

Psychiatric Emergency Services Staff (PES staff) – Trained mental health staff designated by the County's Health Services - Mental Health Division to provide 24/7 mental health crisis services including evaluation for a 5150 hold.

POLICY:

1) TREATING AND TRANSPORTING A PATIENT UNDER A 5150 HOLD

- a) Patients may only be placed on a 5150 hold by one of the following:
 - peace officer
 - designated PES staff worker
- b) In cases where a law enforcement officer places a patient under a 5150 hold and ambulance transport is medically necessary, the law enforcement officer shall follow the transporting ambulance to the hospital and, as soon as possible, provide a completed and signed **original** 5150 form to the ambulance or hospital staff.
- c) Law enforcement may be requested for assistance if a patient placed on a 5150 hold attempts to refuse transport.

2) USE OF RESTRAINTS

- a) Restraints shall be used for all 5150 patients*. Restraints shall be applied as per the EDCEMSA Physical Restraint Policy.

Notes:

***Restraints are mandatory for all 5150 patients unless verbal waiver is obtained from base hospital/online medical control and said waiver is documented on the PCR.**

For severely agitated patients refer to: SEVERELY AGITATED PATIENT protocol.