



County of El Dorado

Emergency Medical Services Agency

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*****PARAMEDIC ALERT*****

No. 2023-03

July 27th, 2023

TO: EMS Personnel
FROM: El Dorado County EMS Agency
SUBJECT: Legal Signatures
PURPOSE: Risk Management

Background:

1. The El Dorado County EMS Agency (EDCEMSA) is the Local Emergency Medical Services Authority (LEMSA) for the County of El Dorado.
2. Pursuant to CCR Title 22 § 100148, EDCEMSA shall establish policies and procedures governing the delivery of EMS services within its jurisdiction, including field procedures, policies and protocols.
3. Pursuant to the 2022 El Dorado County EMS Agency Documentation Policy (D.1.x) the Paramedic is responsible for the acquisition of a valid patient signature on each patient care report.
4. Pursuant to CCR Title 22 § 100173(b), the EDCEMSA Medical Director may recommend the suspension and/or revocation of licensure to the State EMS Authority, for evidence of a threat to public health and safety pursuant to Section 1798.200 of the Health and Safety Code.
5. Pursuant to Health and Safety Code 2.5, Section 1798.200 (c)(5) "The commission of any fraudulent, dishonest, or corrupt act that is substantially related to the qualifications, functions, and duties of prehospital personnel" shall be considered evidence of a threat to the public health and safety.

ALERT:

All provider personnel with ePCR authoring responsibilities are required to obtain a valid signature from each patient prior to the conclusion of patient contact.

In accordance with Section D.2. of the documentation policy, in cases where a patient is unable to sign, the authoring provider will document, in detail, the circumstance(s) making signature acquisition impossible. In such cases, the signature of a responsible party such as a family member, or the receiving RN, will suffice.

Counterfeiting another person's seal or handwriting is forgery according to the California Penal Code (§ 470) and if substantiated, is grounds for suspension and/or revocation of paramedic licensure. Furthermore, since the signature on a PCR validates a bill for payment of money, a false mark in the signature field of the PCR may also constitute fraud.

EDCEMSA respectfully draws the attention of all system stakeholders to these points and cautions all ALS providers to strictly observe the documentation policy.

Please contact EDCEMSA for any further guidance or clarification.
