Division: Emergency Medical Services Agency Effective Date: 08/01/2019

Procedure #711

USE OF RESTRAINTS	
ADULT	PEDIATRIC (≤34KG)
BLS	

- Universal Protocol #601
- Pulse Oximetry O₂ administration per Airway Management Protocol #602
- Application of restraints see Notes
- Evaluate restrained extremities for pulse quality, capillary refill, color, nerve and motor function every 15 minutes

ALS Standing Orders

Severely agitated or aggressive patients that interfere with patient care, or patient/crew safety refer to Behavioral Protocol #613

Base Hospital Orders Only

As needed

Notes

- Restraints for prehospital use must be either padded leather or a soft material and allow for quick release
 - No hard plastic ties
 - No "sandwiching" the patient between backboards or like devices
 - No restraining hands and feet behind the patient ("hog-tying")
 - No methods or material applied in a manner that cause respiratory, vascular or neurological compromise
 - Patient may not be transported in the prone position
- Indications
 - For patients who are violent, or may harm themselves or others during field treatment or transport
- Documentation shall include:
 - Reasons and time restraints were applied
 - Which agency/personnel applied the restraint
 - Evaluation of restrained extremities for pulse quality, capillary refill, color, nerve and motor function every 15 minutes
 - Evaluation of respiratory status
- Method of application shall allow for monitoring of vital signs and shall not restrict the ability to protect the patient's airway, or compromise neurological or vascular status
- Restraints applied by law enforcement and not approved for use by EMS personnel:
 - Require the officer to remain available at the scene or during transport to remove or adjust restraints for patient safety
 - Must allow for straightening of the abdomen and chest to allow for full tidal volume respirations
- Aggressive or violent behavior may be a symptom of medical conditions such as head trauma, alcohol, drug related problems, metabolic disorders, stress or psychiatric disorders.