NORTH COAST EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

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Subject: Treatment Guidelines – BLS Personnel

Behavioral Emergencies

Associated Policies:

I. Priorities

- A. Rescuer safety.
- B. Assess and treat organic illness or injury.
- C. Communicate with transporting ambulance or base hospital.
- D. Transport.

II. Behavioral Emergencies

- A. Protect yourself and other rescuers.
- B. Summon law enforcement.
- C. Forcible restraint should be considered only if:
 - 1. The patient is detained as outlined in Section 5150 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, and
 - 2. Sufficient personnel are available to overpower the patient, and
 - 3. Treatment/transport requires the use of force to assure safety of the patient and rescuers.
 - 4. Use appropriate restraint devices. Never hog tie (restrain in a prone position) or restrict patient's ability to breath.
 - 5. Reassess frequently during transport.
- D. Assess and treat life-threatening injuries first.
- E. Additional assessment and treatment as situation permits.
 - 1. Secondary survey may be deferred if it will aggravate patient's condition.
- F. Communicate with transporting ambulance or base hospital.

Approved:

Approved as to Form:

Approved 5/20/2009

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