



CENTRAL DUPAGE HOSPITAL
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES SYSTEM
POLICY & PROCEDURES

TITLE: USE OF PHYSICAL / CHEMICAL RESTRAINS

SECTION: FIELD OPERATIONS

POLICY NUMBER: B-17

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EFFECTIVE DATE: 01 JULY 2018

NUMBER OF PAGES: 2

PURPOSE:

Use of restraints for behavioral health reasons is limited to emergencies in which there is imminent risk of an individual physically harming himself or herself, prehospital personnel, or others, and non-physical interventions are not effective.

POLICY:

Physical Restraints

1. Hard or soft restraints may only be used as a measure to prevent a patient from causing harm to themselves or others. In no event shall restraints be used as a punishment or discipline for patient actions.

Chemical Restraints

1. Administration of medications may only be used when the application of hard or soft restraints first is unsafe for EMS personnel, the patient or others. The use of chemical restraints must follow Region 8 EMS SMOs.

Procedure:

1. Assessment
 - a. Assess and later document the patient's behavior that places the patient and or others at risk to ensure that the use of restraints meets criteria for use.
 - b. If safe to do so, attempt alternate means of patient management prior to use of restraints.
2. Restraint application – Physical
 - a. Ensure that there are enough EMS personnel or Law Enforcement on scene to manage the patient during the process of restraints
 - b. Only use necessary force (minimum force required) to restrain the patient
 - c. If physical restraints are used, all 4 extremities shall be restrained
 - d. The restrained patient shall be monitored at all times by EMS personnel
 - e. Neurovascular exams of all extremities shall be documented at an interval of no less than q 10 minutes.
 - f. Should law enforcement use handcuffs, law enforcement MUST accompany the transporting EMS personnel and have access to the key

3. Restraints – Chemical

- a. Ensure that there are enough EMS personnel or Law Enforcement on scene to manage the patient during the process of medication administration
- b. Follow Region 8 EMS SMOs for medication and dosing
- c. Only use necessary force (minimum force required) to restrain the patient during administration process
- d. If chemical restraints are used, the patient shall also be placed into physical restraints and all 4 extremities shall be restrained
- e. The chemically restrained patient shall be monitored at all times by a Paramedic or PHRN with ALS monitoring in place.
- f. Neurovascular exams of all extremities shall be documented at an interval of no less than q 10 minutes.
- g. Should law enforcement use handcuffs, law enforcement MUST accompany the transporting EMS personnel and have access to the key

Guidelines of Physical / Chemical Restraints

- 1. Never restrain a patient face down. Unless medically contraindicated, position the patient either supine, or semi-fowlers position
- 2. Always offer the patient a chance to stop the behaviors leading to the potential use of restraints
- 3. Communicate clearly which behaviors may lead to the use of restraints
- 4. Reassess the patient frequently
- 5. Communicate the patient’s behavior and placement of restraints to receiving facility.

Effective Date:	01 July 2018				
Review Date(s):	01 July 2019	01 Oct 2021	01 Feb 2023	01 Nov 2023	
Revision Date(S):					