

Monterey County EMS System Policy



Policy Number: 4110
Effective Date: 7/1/2023
Review Date: 6/30/2026

ORGAN DONOR

I. PURPOSE

To establish guidelines for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel to meet the requirements to search for organ donor information on patients for whom death appears imminent.

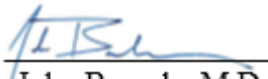
II. POLICY

- A. Section 7150.55 of the Health and Safety Code, Division 7, Chapter 3.5 requires emergency medical personnel to make a reasonable search for a document of anatomical gift, or other information identifying the patient as a donor or an individual who has refused to make an anatomical gift. Sections 7150.10 and 7150.15 also apply to this policy.
- B. Emergency medical treatment and transport of the patient is the highest priority and a search for organ donor authorization/refusal shall not interfere with patient care activities.
- C. EMS personnel shall attempt, when practical, to locate documentation that indicates whether an individual desires to be an organ or tissue donor.

III. PROCEDURE

- A. All patients require immediate medical evaluation. The search for organ donor information shall not interfere with patient care activities.
- B. When EMS personnel encounter an unconscious adult patient for whom it appears death is imminent, they shall attempt a reasonable search of the patient's belongings to determine if the individual carries information indicating the patient's status as an organ donor. This search must be done in the presence of a witness, preferably a law enforcement officer.
- C. If documentation is found to indicate that the patient desires to be an organ donor, this documentation shall be brought with the patient to the receiving hospital. If a law enforcement officer on scene requests to take possession of the documentation, the documentation shall be provided to the officer and verbal notice made to the receiving hospital staff. If the patient is not transported to the hospital, the documentation shall remain with the patient.

END OF POLICY


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