



# COUNTY OF MONTEREY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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Administration    Animal Services    Behavioral Health    Clinic Services  
Emergency Medical Services    Environmental Health    Public Administrator/Public Guardian    Public Health

Date:            October 20, 2024

To:              Monterey County EMS Service Providers & System Participants

From:           Monterey County EMS Agency

**Subject:        Revisions to EMS Policy #5420 and Protocol E-5**

The Monterey County EMS Agency has revised EMS Policy #5420 Opioid Withdrawal Treatment (formerly #5420 Medication for Addiction Treatment (MAT)) and Protocol E-5 Poisoning and Overdose. This policy and protocol update will be effective on November 1, 2024. These revisions are intended to mirror the guidance given by the California EMS Bridge Program and to make buprenorphine available to more patients. Buprenorphine is a medical treatment that is used to treat the symptoms of opioid withdrawal caused by either the use of naloxone to reverse the effects of an overdose or the absence of an opioid within the patient's system.

The County of Monterey EMS Agency has been working with the California EMS Authority on this revision as the use of buprenorphine by paramedics is outside of the paramedic scope of practice in California under California Code of Regulations, Division 9, Title 22. This required the EMS Agency to apply to use buprenorphine as an optional scope of practice treatment under approval by the EMS Authority. The continued use of buprenorphine and the changes to the policy and protocol have been approved by the EMS Authority.

As specified under EMS Policy #1000 Policy and Protocol Development Process, the EMS Agency is releasing the draft updates to EMS Policy #5420 Opioid Withdrawal Treatment and Protocol E-5 Poisoning and Overdose for public comment. The public comment period begins today, October 18, 2024, and closes on Friday, November 8, 2024. To ensure your comments are considered for inclusion in these updates, please submit all comments by the close of the public comment period. Please use the attached public comment form to submit comments. A copy of EMT Policy #5420 and Protocol E-5 are available on the EMS Agency website at [www.mocoems.org](http://www.mocoems.org)

Please submit the public comment form or any questions to [EMSAdmin@co.monterey.ca.us](mailto:EMSAdmin@co.monterey.ca.us).