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## Medical Aid and Response

### 432.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy recognizes that members often encounter persons who appear to be in need of medical aid and establishes a law enforcement response to such situations.

### 432.2 POLICY

It is the policy of the East Palo Alto Police Department that all officers and other designated members be trained to provide emergency medical aid and to facilitate an emergency medical response.

### 432.3 FIRST RESPONDING MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

Whenever practicable, members should take appropriate steps to provide initial medical aid (e.g., first aid, CPR and use of an automated external defibrillator (AED)) in accordance with their training and current certification levels. This should be done for those in need of immediate care and only when the member can safely do so.

Prior to initiating medical aid, the member should contact Dispatch and request response by emergency medical services (EMS) as the member deems appropriate.

Members should follow universal precautions when providing medical aid, such as wearing gloves and avoiding contact with bodily fluids, consistent with the Communicable Diseases Policy. Members should use a barrier or bag device to perform rescue breathing.

When requesting EMS, the member should provide Dispatch with information for relay to EMS personnel in order to enable an appropriate response, including:

- (a) The location where EMS is needed.
- (b) The nature of the incident.
- (c) Any known scene hazards.
- (d) Information on the person in need of EMS, such as:
  - 1. Signs and symptoms as observed by the member.
  - 2. Changes in apparent condition.
  - 3. Number of patients, sex and age, if known.
  - 4. Whether the person is conscious, breathing and alert, or is believed to have consumed drugs or alcohol.
  - 5. Whether the person is showing signs or symptoms of excited delirium or other agitated chaotic behavior.

Members should stabilize the scene whenever practicable while awaiting the arrival of EMS.

Members should not direct EMS personnel whether to transport the person for treatment.

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### **432.4 TRANSPORTING ILL AND INJURED PERSONS**

Except in extraordinary cases, where alternatives are not reasonably available, members should not transport persons who are unconscious, who have serious injuries or who may be seriously ill. EMS personnel should be called to handle patient transportation.

Officers should search any person who is in custody before releasing that person to EMS for transport.

An officer should accompany any person in custody during transport in an ambulance when requested by EMS personnel, when it reasonably appears necessary to provide security, when it is necessary for investigative purposes or when so directed by a supervisor.

Except in extraordinary cases, members should not provide emergency escort for medical transport or civilian vehicles.

### **432.5 PERSONS REFUSING EMS CARE**

If a person who is not in custody refuses EMS care or refuses to be transported to a medical facility, an officer shall not force that person to receive care or be transported. However, members may assist EMS personnel when EMS personnel determine the person lacks mental capacity to understand the consequences of refusing medical care or to make an informed decision and the lack of immediate medical attention may result in serious bodily injury or the death of the person.

In cases where mental illness may be a factor, the officer should consider proceeding with a 72-hour treatment and evaluation commitment (5150 commitment) process in accordance with the Mental Illness Commitments Policy.

If an officer believes that a person who is in custody requires EMS care and the person refuses, he/she should encourage the person to receive medical treatment. The officer may also consider contacting a family member to help persuade the person to agree to treatment or who may be able to authorize treatment for the person.

If the person still refuses, the officer will require the person to be transported to the nearest medical facility. In such cases, the officer should consult with a supervisor prior to the transport.

Members shall not sign refusal-for-treatment forms or forms accepting financial responsibility for treatment.

#### **432.5.1 SICK OR INJURED ARRESTEE**

If an arrestee appears ill or injured, or claims illness or injury, he/she should be medically cleared prior to booking. If the officer has reason to believe the arrestee is feigning injury or illness, the officer should contact a supervisor, who will determine whether medical clearance will be obtained prior to booking.

If the jail or detention facility refuses to accept custody of an arrestee based on medical screening, the officer should note the name of the facility person refusing to accept custody and the reason for refusal, and should notify a supervisor to determine the appropriate action.

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### **432.6 MEDICAL ATTENTION RELATED TO USE OF FORCE**

Specific guidelines for medical attention for injuries sustained from a use of force may be found in the Use of Force, Handcuffing and Restraints, Control Devices and Techniques, and Conducted Energy Device policies.

### **432.7 AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR (AED) USE**

A member may use an AED only after receiving appropriate training from an approved public safety first aid and CPR course (22 CCR 100014; 22 CCR 100017; 22 CCR 100018).

#### **432.7.1 AED USER RESPONSIBILITY**

Members who are issued AEDs for use in [department/office] vehicles should check the AED at the beginning of the shift to ensure it is properly charged and functioning. Any AED that is not functioning properly will be taken out of service and given to the Training Officer who is responsible for ensuring appropriate maintenance.

Following use of an AED, the device shall be cleaned and/or decontaminated as required. The electrodes and/or pads will be replaced as recommended by the AED manufacturer.

Any member who uses an AED should contact Dispatch as soon as possible and request response by EMS.

#### **432.7.2 AED REPORTING**

Any member using an AED will complete an incident report detailing its use.

#### **432.7.3 AED TRAINING AND MAINTENANCE**

The Training Officer should ensure appropriate training and refresher training is provided to members authorized to use an AED. A list of authorized members and training records shall be made available for inspection by the local EMS agency (LEMSA) or EMS authority upon request (22 CCR 100021; 22 CCR 100022; 22 CCR 100029).

The Training Officer is responsible for ensuring AED devices are appropriately maintained and will retain records of all maintenance in accordance with the established records retention schedule (22 CCR 100021).

### **432.9 ADMINISTRATION OF OPIOID OVERDOSE MEDICATION**

Trained members may administer opioid overdose medication (Civil Code § 1714.22; Business and Professions Code § 4119.9).

#### **432.9.1 OPIOID OVERDOSE MEDICATION USER RESPONSIBILITIES**

Members who are qualified to administer opioid overdose medication, such as naloxone, should handle, store and administer the medication consistent with their training. Members should check the medication and associated administration equipment at the beginning of their shift to ensure they are serviceable and not expired. Any expired medication or unserviceable administration equipment should be removed from service and given to the Training Officer.

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Any member who administers an opioid overdose medication should contact Dispatch as soon as possible and request response by EMS.

### 432.9.2 OPIOID OVERDOSE MEDICATION REPORTING

Any use of opioid overdose medication requires a written report.

Responsibilities:

- Officer - Any member administering opioid overdose medication shall detail its use in an appropriate report.
- Sergeant/Supervisor - The supervisor will ensure that the report contains the needed information to meet applicable reporting requirements. In addition, the supervisor shall notify via email the appropriate division commander within 24 hours of the use of opioid overdose medication. The notification will include the date of the incident, case number, and involved staff.
- Department - Shall complete and submit the San Mateo County Law Enforcement reporting form to the San Mateo County Medical Director, and keep a copy of the form on file with the original report.
- Records Division - Staff will process the report and forward a copy of the report to the San Mateo County Emergency Medical Services Agency.

Training Officer Records Supervisor

### 432.9.3 OPIOID OVERDOSE MEDICATION TRAINING

The Training Officer should ensure initial and refresher training is provided to members authorized to administer opioid overdose medication. Training should be coordinated with the local health department and comply with the requirements in 22 CCR 100019 and any applicable POST standards (Civil Code § 1714.22).

### 432.9.4 DESTRUCTION OF OPIOID OVERDOSE MEDICATION

The Training Officer shall ensure the destruction of any expired opioid overdose medication (Business and Professions Code § 4119.9).

### 432.9.5 OPIOID OVERDOSE MEDICATION RECORD MANAGEMENT

Records regarding acquisition and disposition of opioid overdose medications shall be maintained and retained in accordance with the established records retention schedule and at a minimum of three years from the date the record was created (Business and Professions Code § 4119.9).

## **432.9 NALOXONE STORAGE**

Members are issued 2 doses of Naloxone. Maintenance and storage of the issued Naloxone shall be the responsibility of the member the Naloxone is issued to. Members should take care not to

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expose the Naloxone to extreme heat. Members should also check the Naloxone at the beginning of their shift to ensure it is serviceable and not expired.

The Training Sergeant shall be responsible for the storage of the Naloxone supply in the Police Department.