



NORTHERN CALIFORNIA EMS, INC.

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From: Eric M. Rudnick, MD, FACEP, FAAEM
Medical Director

Date: October 30, 2009

Subject: Taser Barb Removal

There have been an increasing number of episodes in our region where Law Enforcement is requesting that Paramedics remove Taser Barbs. It is not within the Paramedic's Scope of Practice in the Nor-Cal EMS region to remove any impaled device/object including Taser Barbs. The Paramedic may stabilize the devices if requested. The risk of an underlying medical condition causing the aberrant behavior that required the patient being Tasered needs to be evaluated. These patients in my opinion should be evaluated at a health care facility.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Nor-Cal EMS.

Thank you for your help in this matter.

EMR:kvd