

Monterey County EMS System Policy



Policy Number: 4050
Effective Date: 7/1/2025
Review Date: 6/30/2028

PSYCHIATRIC EVALUATION-5150 TRANSPORTS

I. POLICY

The Monterey County Emergency Medical Services Agency, in compliance with CA Welfare & Institutions code, establishes the following procedure to facilitate safe assessment and transportation of individuals placed on involuntary holds (referred to herein as “5150 holds”), for persons who are a danger to themselves; danger to others, and/or gravely disabled due to mental health disorders.

Persons authorized to initiate 5150 holds in Monterey County are:

- A. Law Enforcement
- B. All physicians licensed by the Medical Board of California who live in or practice in the County of Monterey
- C. Designated Monterey County Behavioral Health (MCBH) mental health professionals

II. PROCEDURE

- A. EMS personnel shall perform a complete assessment on any patient who has been placed on a 5150 hold prior to transport.
- B. EMS personnel shall base treatment and transport destination decisions on the patient’s medical and psychiatric condition.
- C. Patients presenting with acute medical conditions and/or traumatic injury shall be transported to the closest and most appropriate emergency department.
- D. Patients that DO NOT present with acute medical conditions and/or traumatic injury shall be transported in accordance with the following:
 - 1. Patients placed on a 5150 hold by an authorized behavioral health specialist shall be transported to an emergency department (within Monterey County) designated by the behavioral health specialist.
 - 2. EMS personnel shall transport patients placed on a 5150 hold by law enforcement officers, without the aid of a behavioral health specialist requesting a destination, to Natividad Medical Center or Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula.
- E. EMS personnel shall obtain the completed 5150 form **PRIOR** to patient transport.
- F. EMS Personnel shall transport all patients placed on a 5150 hold in compliance with **Monterey County EMS System Policy 4508: USE OF RESTRAINT**.

END OF POLICY