



North Central Connecticut Emergency Medical Services Council, Inc.

NORTH CENTRAL CT EMS REGION 3 MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE POLICY STATEMENT ON THE USE OF RESTRAINTS

The use of handcuffs, or other hard restraint devices on patients, creates a barrier to providing patient care. This is especially significant if the patient sustains a cardiopulmonary arrest, or other serious condition, while enroute to a medical facility. Even with an available handcuff key, restraint removal may be difficult and/or time-consuming in these cases. Additionally, hard restraint devices pose a risk of direct physical injury to violent/uncooperative patients.

Sponsored EMS Providers are thus expected to transition handcuffed patients to soft restraints prior to transport. This transition should be accomplished in a safe and controlled manner. When indicated, paramedics should administer chemical restraint/sedation prior to switching physical restraint devices. If patient condition allows, sufficient time should be provided for sedative/dissociation agents to take effect prior to transitioning physical restraints.

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