I. PURPOSE

To secure and return reusable equipment to the prehospital care provider

II. AUTHORITY: Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Section 1797.204.

III. POLICY

A. All participants in the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) system shall facilitate the return of properly labeled equipment to the owner agency.

B. All agencies in the EMS system agree to buy and stock enough equipment so as not to be dependent upon another agency for immediate item replacement/exchange when faced with normal, average workloads.

IV. PROCEDURES

A. Prehospital Agency Responsibilities
   1. Agencies shall permanently label all reusable equipment in the following manner:
      a. Agency name and telephone number
      b. “Return to Emergency Department” (optional)
   2. Agencies shall make their best effort to recover equipment within seven days.
   3. Prehospital personnel shall log equipment as required by their agency.

B. Hospital Responsibilities
   1. Hospitals shall be responsible for security on reusable prehospital equipment left in the hospital when the provider agency has clearly labeled equipment with agency name and telephone number.
   2. Hospitals shall make every attempt to remove visible contaminants prior to placing equipment in a common storage area.