

Chapter: COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
Key Words: Policy/Procedure/Protocol

SUBJECT: Recovery of Prehospital Patient Care
Reusable Equipment

POLICY NO: S-803
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AUTHORITY: Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5, Section 1797.204.

I. PURPOSE

To secure and return reusable equipment to the prehospital care provider

II. 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.

III. 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.