Purpose
The purpose of this policy is to give EMS guidance for patients who are in police custody, restrained, and/or protective custody is required.

Protective Custody
Protective custody is a civil status in which an incapacitated person is detained by a peace officer for the purposes of:
(a) Assuring the safety of the individual or the public or both; and
(b) Assisting the individual to return to a functional condition.

- Patients with evidence of suicidal ideation who refuse care may be placed into protective custody under RSA 135C:28 III.
- Patients who present with an altered level of consciousness, diminished mental capacity, or evidence of impaired judgment from alcohol or drug use may be placed into protective custody under RSA 172 and 172:B3.
- If law enforcement refuses to place a patient into protective custody at the request of EMS, on-line medical control must be contacted and a law enforcement supervisor should be requested for further guidance.

Police Custody
- Police custody for this policy, shall mean a person under arrest.
- Patients who EMS believe require medical care should be transported to a medical facility. If police and EMS disagree about whether a patient in police custody requires transport to a medical facility for further assessment or treatment, on-line medical control must be contacted and a law enforcement supervisor should be requested for guidance.

EMS Initiated Restraints
For any patient potentially requiring restraints by EMS, see the Restraints Procedure 6.5.

Police Restraint Devices
Patients transported by EMS who have been restrained by law enforcement devices (e.g., handcuffs) should be accompanied, in the patient compartment, by a law enforcement officer who is capable of removing the device. If this is not feasible, the officer MUST follow directly behind the transporting ambulance to the receiving hospital.

Tasers® (Conductive Electrical Weapon)
Patients who have been subdued by a Taser device, see Tasers Procedure 6.6.

Pepper Spray
Patients who have been subdued by pepper spray, see Eye and Dental Protocol 4.2.

Excited Delirium
Excited/Agitated Delirium is characterized by extreme restlessness, irritability, and/or high fever. Patients exhibiting these signs are at high risk for sudden death, see Restraints Procedure 6.5.