

SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY  
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AGENCY

**TITLE: ANATOMICAL DONOR CARDS**

**EMS Policy No. 5110**

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**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this policy is to establish a process to search for anatomical donor information.

**AUTHORITY:** Health and Safety Code, Division 2.5 Section 1797.220; Reference H&SC § 7152.5

**DEFINITIONS:**

- A. **"Imminent Death":** means for the purpose of this policy any situation in which illness in the adult unconscious patient (18 years of age or older) are so severe that death is likely to occur prior to or shortly after the patient arrives at the hospital.
- B. **"Reasonable Search":** means for the purpose of this policy a brief, rapid search by law enforcement, coroner, hospital, ambulance, or emergency medical personnel of an individual and his/her wallet/purse with the intention of locating an anatomical donor card attached to that individual's driver's license or state issued identification card.

**POLICY:**

- I. If the patient requires medical attention, defer any search for an anatomical donor card until after arrival at the receiving hospital. At no time should the search for an anatomical donor card be at the expense of treatment and/or transport of the patient.
- II. If law enforcement personnel are present and time permits request that law enforcement perform the search.
- III. If the patient is declared dead by law enforcement personnel or determined to be obviously dead in accordance with EMS Policy No. 5103, ambulance or emergency medical personnel shall defer any search to coroner personnel.
- IV. Document any search for an anatomical donor card on the patient care record and verbally report the presence or absence of an anatomical donor card to the receiving physician or registered nurse.
- V. When requesting an order for a determination of death in accordance with EMS Policy No. 5103, paramedic personnel shall report the presence or absence of an anatomical donor card to the base hospital physician or mobile intensive care nurse.

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Approved: Signature on file  
Medical Director

Signature on file  
EMS Administrator