

CORRECTIONAL MANAGED HEALTH CARE POLICY MANUAL	Effective Date: N e w	NUMBER: <b>E-34.6</b>
	Replaces: N e w	
	Formulated: New	Page <b>1</b> of <b>2</b>
	Reviewed:	
<b>TASER (CONDUCTED ELECTRICAL DEVICE)</b>		

**PURPOSE:** To define precautionary medical considerations prior to deployment of conducted electrical devices (TASER) and establish a mechanism to assure inmates receive physical assessment and treatment post deployment of conducted electrical devices (TASER).

**POLICY:**

- I. TASERs shall not be used against inmates who are handcuffed or otherwise restrained; or who have been recently sprayed with a flammable chemical agent or who are in close proximity to any flammable agent(s); inmates whose position or activity may result in collateral injury (i.e. falls from height); or inmates who are submerged.
- II. Prior to using a TASER, where circumstances permit, security staff shall confer with the unit medical department to determine if the inmate has any medical conditions or diagnoses which should be taken into consideration prior to TASER deployment.
- III. TASERs shall not be used against inmates, except in exigent circumstances, who are pregnant, elderly, visibly frail, have cardiac implantable electrical devices (i.e. pacemaker), or seizure disorder diagnosis.
- IV. TASERs shall not be used against inmates assigned to an area designated as a mental health treatment program, except in exigent circumstances, until mental health staff (or medical staff in their absence) has been contacted and attempted to control the situation.
- V. TASERs shall not be used against inmates assigned to an infirmary, a medical special housing unit (SHU) or hospice, except in exigent circumstances, until medical staff have been contacted and attempted to control the situation.
- VI. All Use of Force procedures outlined in policy E-34.3 shall be followed.
- VII. When security is ready to commence the Use of Force with TASER, licensed medical personnel will respond to the scene with an emergency response bag and AED. Emergent and/or urgent care including cardiopulmonary resuscitation will be provided at the scene as appropriate and safe for the situation. Before touching any inmate where a TASER has been deployed, ensure correctional staff have disconnected cartridge from the handheld unit.
- VIII. Physical assessment with particular emphasis on secondary injuries should be performed by licensed medical personnel. Medical staff will assess for any injuries that may need immediate medical attention with emphasis on any potential trauma that may have occurred before or because of TASER deployment (TASER induced fall/head injury).
- IX. TASER probe removal will be performed by licensed medical personnel utilizing Universal Precautions. TASER probes should be treated as biohazard sharps and discarded into the appropriate biohazard sharps receptacle.

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- X. If TASER deployment occurs after hours when unit medical staff are NOT present, the inmate must be evaluated by Emergency Medical Services/personnel for assessment, TASER probe removal and clearance to return back to their housing. Unit medical staff must be notified of all after hours TASER deployment and the inmate(s) assessed upon return of medical staff.
- XI. Licensed medical personnel will review and provide the “After TASER Discharge Education Pamphlet” Attachment A to the inmate.

Reference: TDCJ Use of Force Plan