SCOPE:
Poudre Valley Hospital EMS and represented Northern Colorado services [See page 1]

PURPOSE:
To define a procedure for taser probe removal

PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES:
Protocol: Taser Probe Removal

Indications
   A. EMS personnel may be requested to assess patients after taser deployment, and/or to remove Air Taser probes lodged in a subject's skin. Subjects may be dazed or confused for several minutes post device deployment.

Technique
   A. Do not attempt removal if the subject is combative. All other BLS and ALS assessment and care is to take place as needed. All patients should be fully assessed and evaluated in the emergency department.
   B. Evaluate the anatomical location of the probe. High-risk/sensitive zones will require removal in the emergency department. They include eyes, ears, nose, mouth, neck, scalp, forehead, cheek, breast, genitals, hands, feet, and joints.
   C. To remove the dart, utilize PPE, place hand in the form of a "V" around the taser dart in order to stabilize the surrounding skin and to keep loose skin from coming up with the dart. Firmly grasp the probe and with one smooth hard jerk, remove probe from subject's skin.
   D. Prior to probe removal inform all caregivers that you are about to remove the contaminated sharp. Examine the probe and the patient closely in an effort to make sure the probe tip did not break off during removal. Promptly dispose of the probe in an appropriate sharps disposal container. If the dart falls into chain of custody ensure it is placed in an appropriate container that contains no other sharps.
   E. Provide wound care by cleansing the affected area with a chloraprep in a circular motion around the wound, and apply a band aid.

Specific Information
   A. Clear and thorough documentation is required.

Protocol: Taser Probe Removal	EMT- B	EMT - IV	EMT-P
Taser removal			
Adults and pediatrics	SO	SO	SO

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS:

REFERENCES: