



# *County of El Dorado*

## *Emergency Medical Services Agency*

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### **\*\*\*PARAMEDIC ALERT\*\*\***

**No. 2025-03**

**June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

**TO: EMS Personnel**  
**FROM: El Dorado County EMS Agency**  
**SUBJECT: Legal Signatures**  
**PURPOSE: Risk Management**

#### Background:

1. According to Health and Safety Code 2.5, Section 1798.200 (c)(5) "*The commission of any fraudulent, dishonest, or corrupt act that is substantially related to the qualifications, functions, and duties of prehospital personnel*" shall be considered evidence of a threat to the public health and safety.
2. According to California Code of Regulations Title 22 § 100173(b), the LEMSA Medical Director may recommend the suspension and/or revocation of [paramedic] licensure to the State EMS Authority, for evidence of a threat to public health and safety pursuant to Section 1798.200 of the Health and Safety Code.
3. The El Dorado County EMS Agency (EDCEMSA) is the Local Emergency Medical Services Authority (LEMSA) for the County of El Dorado.
4. Pursuant to the 2022 El Dorado County EMS Agency Documentation Policy (D.1.x) the Paramedic is responsible for the acquisition of a valid patient signature on each patient care report. In cases where a patient is unable to furnish a signature, the authoring provider will document, in detail, the circumstance(s) making signature acquisition impossible.

**ALERT:**

**Reiterating Paramedic Alert 2023-03 (July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023)**

Counterfeiting another person's seal or handwriting is forgery according to the California Penal Code (§ 470) and if substantiated, is grounds for suspension and/or revocation of paramedic licensure. Furthermore, since a PCR is ultimately a due bill for payment of money, wherein the patient's signature constitutes their acceptance of financial responsibility, a false mark in the patient signature field of the PCR may also constitute fraud.

EDCEMSA billing staff review every submitted ePCR for the elements required to process reimbursement. This includes evaluation of patient and crew signatures, as well as comparison with older patient signatures on file where available.

All EMS personnel are reminded to strictly observe the Documentation Policy and ensure that no mark, seal or handwriting other than that of the patient is placed in the signature field after selecting:

Patient

If the patient is unable to sign, the signature of an EMS provider or other healthcare provider should be affixed only after selecting either:

Patient Unable to Sign/ EMS Provider

or

Patient Unable to Sign/Healthcare Provider

EDCEMSA will submit any evidence of potential fraud to the California Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) Enforcement Unit and cooperate fully with any subsequent investigations.

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