



County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

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EMERGENCY MEDICAL
SERVICES PROGRAM

Policy No. 5500
Reviewed 01/07

Emergency Medical Services Program

Approved

Medical Director

Subject: ACCESSING PRE-VASCULAR ACCESS DEVICES (PVAD)

I. Purpose:

Considerable healthcare previously only done in the hospital is now being provided in the home setting. Therefore the EMS system is more often encountering patients out of the hospital who have various permanent or semi-permanent venous access devices. This policy attempts to provide guidance when paramedics should consider the use of these devices when contemplating resuscitation.

II. Policy:

- A. PVAD should be considered as the vascular access of last choice.
- B. In every case, these persons should be acuity levels 4 or 5 only.
- C. In every case, Base Hospital contact must be made in advance.
- D. Documentation should clearly note the use of PVAD after base contact. Notation should include at a minimum:
 - 1) Route.
 - 2) Complications of procedure.
 - 3) Effect of treatment.