Purpose:

This service will insure the inventory and transfer of patient personal property.

Policy:

1. All patient property, which must accompany them to the hospital, will be left in the care of the patient or immediate family member whenever possible. If the emergency care provider is required to take possession of a patient's personal property, she/he will make note of said property on the patient care report and indicate to who the property was released.

2. In the event the emergency care providers find it necessary to go through the patient's personal property to ascertain identification, medical information, etc., the ECP will conduct the search with a witness present whenever possible. Items examined and the witness name will be documented in the patient care report.

3. Patient’s property, which will not be accompanying the patient to the emergency department, will not be entrusted to anyone other than a significant other, police officers or someone the patient designates.

4. Patient treatment and transportation will not be delayed to secure property in the case of a life-threatening emergency.