

SAEMS Pre-Hospital Protocols

Authority

- I. Purpose
 - A. This protocol defines the scope of authority for establishing EMS responder protocols, minimum standard guidelines, medical direction plans and medical authority over patients at a scene.
- II. State Legislative Authority
 - A. ARS 36-2203.01(C) provides that the emergency medical direction commission shall assist the director (of ADHS) in developing medical protocols governing the medical treatments, procedures, medications, training and techniques that may be performed by each class of emergency medical technician pursuant to section 36-2205.
 - B. ARS 36-2204 provides that the ADHS medical director of emergency medical services, the Emergency Medical Service Council, and the Medical Direction Commission shall recommend to the director, medical standards for non-physician prehospital treatment and prehospital triage of patients requiring emergency medical services.
- III. State Guidelines for Development of Regional Protocols and Medical Direction Plans
 - A. Arizona State Administrative Rules, Regional Protocols, and Agency Medical Direction Authority shall guide prehospital patient management activities and on-line medical direction. In accordance with R9-25-201, Medical Direction Plans for agencies shall include:
 1. Treatment Protocols: Statements that define which treatments may be used within an emergency medical service's system and the circumstances in which they may be used.
 2. Triage Protocols: These shall include provisions for
 - a. Availability of special treatment facilities
 - b. Nature and severity of the illness or injury
 - c. Patient's choice
 - d. Expected transport time (including air vs ground)
 3. Communications Protocols: Written guidelines which define
 - a. Back-up procedures for communication equipment failures
 - b. Choice of facility to exercise on-line medical control for a given emergency.
 - c. Circumstances and patient conditions which require on-line medical supervision.

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4. Transfer of Care: written guidelines which define
 - a. Information required to be communicated to the receiving facility
 - b. Time frame for completion of prehospital incident reports

IV. Scene Control

- A. Scene to be managed by the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ).

V. Medical Authority

- A. Once public safety emergencies have been controlled and the scene secured, medical authority over individual patient care will proceed as follows:
 1. Patient triage shall be assumed by the first responder with the highest level of training who evaluates the patient first.
 2. Patient care will be assigned by the Scene Commander to the most appropriate EMCT available.
 3. Will continue with the greatest continuity of care possible, and may include the transfer of patient care to the appropriate provider/transport agency.
- B. Accordingly,
 1. Medical authority over individual patient care may be transferred to an EMS responder with equal or higher/lower certification level, as available and as appropriate to the level of care required by patient condition.
 2. Conflicts regarding individual patient care shall be resolved by contacting the online medical direction authority for the AHJ.

VI. Special Note

- A. Public Safety emergency(s) that occur during patient care may pre-empt patient care needs at a scene.