

Out of Hospital Care Provider Policy

Title: Transfer of patient care to a prehospital care provider with a lower level of training

Effective Date: February 1, 1995

POLICY:

in order to best utilize prehospital care provider resources it is sometimes advantageous to permit a prehospital care provider to transfer patient care to a prehospital care provider with a lower level of training.

PROCEDURE:

If after thoroughly evaluating a patient, a prehospital care provider feels that the patient can safely and effectively be released to a prehospital care provider with a lower level of training, then he/she must contact his/her appropriate medical control facility. He/she should present a brief history and physical examination to the medical control physician, and then request permission to release the patient. If the medical control physician agrees with this transfer, then the patient may be transferred to the prehospital care provider with a lower level of training.

The transporting prehospital care provider must complete a prehospital care record as usual. This documentation must also include the name of the prehospital care provider who released the patient, the name of the medical control physician who agreed to this release, the medical command record number given by the medical control physician and any other relevant information. A copy of the PCR must also be sent to the prehospital care providers' medical director for quality assurance purposes.

The patient must be transported by the prehospital care provider with the highest level of training if there exists any question(s) regarding the safety and/or effectiveness of this release. Also, this release must never occur without consent of the medical control physician as during communication failures. Finally, this policy does not apply to multiple patient encounters in which it is the customary and necessary practice for prehospital care providers to field triage patients to care and transportation by prehospital care providers of lower level of training.