

Southeast Arizona EMS Region

Standing Order Training Module

Dead on Scene/Do Not resuscitate

January 2005

PURPOSE

This SAEMS Standing Order Training Module has been developed to serve as a template for EMS provider training. The intent is to provide consistent and concise information to all providers practicing within the SAEMS Region. The content of the Training Module has been developed by the Protocol Development and Review Committee, and includes the specific Standing Order, resource and reference material, and instructions for completing the Training Module to obtain continuing education credit. One hour of SAEMS continuing education credit may be issued following successful completion of the module.

OBJECTIVES: Upon completion of this learning module the participant will be able to:

1. Discuss the role of medical direction related to the use of Standing Orders.
2. List three benefits of Standing Orders.
3. Outline inclusion and exclusion criteria for this Standing Order.
4. Describe the communication process between the field and the receiving facility when a Standing Order is implemented.
5. List the elements of the dispatch radio relay.
6. List two reasons for direct facility (on-line) contact following implementation of a Standing Order.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Read the accompanying information, Standing Order, and any additional reference material as necessary.
2. Complete the attached Posttest by _____, and return with self addressed envelope to:

3. A SAEMS CE Form will be issued to providers scoring greater than ____% on the Posttest.
4. Please contact _____ for questions, suggestions, concerns.

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Resource Material

OVERVIEW

The EMS system in Tucson has traditionally operated under direct medical control, requiring early radio contact with a base hospital physician on all prehospital encounters. The concept of Standing Orders developed as a natural evolution of a busy EMS system. SAEMS implemented Standing Orders in 1998, with the intent of reducing the amount of time required for radio contact while maintaining or improving the level of patient care provided in the community. The regional Base Hospital Medical Directors approved each Standing Order and granted authority for providers to assess and treat select patients *without* on-line medical direction. The potential benefits of a Standing Order (off-line) system include a shorter on-scene time, more appropriate treatment decisions, more time to interact with the patient, and broader consistency in care.

Providers practicing in the SAEMS region are governed not only by their Scope of Practice, but also by Protocols, Minimum Treatment Standards, and Standing Orders. There are a number of SAEMS *Administrative* Protocols outlining responsibilities for such things as approved documentation abbreviations, infectious disease exposure notification, and select patient triage parameters. The *Advanced Training* Protocols list those skills requiring additional training and medical director approval; for example, automatic transport ventilators and central line insertion.

Minimum Treatment Standards are an algorithmic flow of basic standards of care for various patient care situations. They outline, at a minimum, the assessment and treatment considerations for BLS and ALS providers, and are available should communication attempts for on-line medical direction fail.

Standing Orders differ from Protocols and Minimum Treatment Standards in that there is no required contact with a medical direction authority for orders. The physician orders are outlined on each Standing Order document. They are the legal equivalent of a radio transmitted, on-line order from a medical direction authority. For this reason, they do not allow for any deviation: orders must be followed sequentially and precisely. They are not guidelines or suggested interventions.

DEFINITIONS

- **Protocols** - Guidelines for prehospital care ranging from administrative to procedural.
- **Minimum Treatment Standards** – Algorithm for minimum standard of care guidelines for patient care situations.
- **Standing Orders** – Specific interventions which may be undertaken in lieu of contacting on-line medical direction.
- **On-Line Medical Direction** - Medical direction of prehospital activities by direct radio or telephonic communications with a medical direction authority.
- **Medical Direction Authority** – An administrative medical director or an on-line medical direction physician.
- **MEDS (dispatch) Communication Relay** – Essential information relayed from the field to the receiving facility via dispatch regarding a Standing Order patient.

DOCUMENTATION

Quality prehospital care can be achieved following adequate education and training, accurate patient assessment, skilled procedure intervention, use of good judgment, and continuous quality improvement. Documentation is essential to validate quality care. Reports should allow others to understand and follow the providers' decision-making process, particularly when Standing Orders are implemented, as the prehospital care report will often be the sole document describing the call.

There are key components to the written report when Standing Orders are utilized. Thorough documentation of an adequate assessment is essential. Reference to inclusion and exclusion criteria is recommended, with attention also paid to pertinent negatives. It should be clear why the particular Standing Order was chosen. Implementation and response to interventions is also a critical part of the prehospital report. Independent, off-line practice often requires additional responsibility on the part of the provider when it comes to judgment and documentation.

COMMUNICATION

All standing orders require the following information be provided to dispatch and relayed to the receiving facility: specific standing order used, age, sex, and ETA. Additional information may be required as follows:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Acute Anaphylaxis/Stable Allergic Reaction | Stable/Unstable |
| 2. Acute Pulmonary Edema | |
| 3. Asthma/COPD | |
| 4. Cardiac Arrest | |
| 5. Chest Pain | 12-Lead sent? |
| 6. Dead on Scene | No hospital relay |
| 7. Hypoglycemia | |
| 8. Minor Medical | Chief complaint ("Sick Person" not acceptable) |
| 9. Motor Vehicle Crash | No hospital relay |
| 10. Pain Management | Chief complaint (mechanism of injury) |
| 11. Seizures | BLS or ALS |
| 12. Stroke/TIA | Symptom onset, patient weight |
| 13. Unconscious/Unresponsive | |

There is no need for a dual patch on standing order patients going to a non-medical direction authority facility (VA, HCH, or UPH), as the physician orders are already provided. Receiving facilities must be familiar with each standing order to best anticipate and prepare for the patient's arrival. Standing Orders are not intended for use during interfacility transfers, nor are they appropriate for use on pregnant patients. Check with your medical direction authority for recommendations regarding the use of Standing Orders during scene transfers greater than 30 minutes. Also check with your medical direction authority for a list of those Standing Orders approved for *your* use.

**NEVER HESITATE TO CONTACT MEDICAL
DIRECTION FOR ANY PROBLEM, QUESTION,
OR CHANGE IN STATUS!**

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Dead on Scene/Do Not Resuscitate

Post Test

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. The Dead On Scene/Do Not Resuscitate Standing Order should not be used on which of the following patients:
 - a) A patient that was burned beyond recognition
 - b) A 15-year-old hospice patient with a valid Prehospital Medical Directive (orange form)
 - c) A patient in PEA post-resuscitative efforts
 - d) A decapitated patient

2. What pulse must you check for and document an absence of for 60 seconds:
 - a) The femoral pulse
 - b) The brachial pulse
 - c) The carotid pulse
 - d) The radial pulse

3. You should not use the Standing Order on which of the following patients:
 - a) A 73-year-old male cool to touch and mottled with rigor and lividity, last seen 12 hours previously
 - b) A decomposed body
 - c) A 96-year-old female in hospice with a valid Prehospital Medical Directive (Orange Form)
 - d) A patient that is cool to the touch secondary to being submerged in an unheated pool in the middle of winter

4. You must include which of the following in your documentation:
 - a) Skin color and temperature
 - b) Presence of rigor and fixed lividity
 - c) Non-reactive pupils and absent corneal reflexes
 - d) All of the above

5. What cardiac rhythm must be documented in 3 leads if equipped:
 - a) Fine v-fib
 - b) PEA
 - c) Asystole
 - d) V-tach

6. While assessing the patient, what should you auscultate for:
 - a) The presence of bowel sounds
 - b) The presence of heart tones and breath sounds
 - c) Auscultation is unnecessary as chest rise/fall and carotid pulse are better indicators
 - d) The presence of a carotid bruit

7. You arrive on scene to find that your patient meets all the criteria of the Dead On Scene/Do Not Resuscitate Standing Order. What is the next action you should take:
 - a) Have the family call the funeral home to begin making arrangements
 - b) Leave the scene because there is nothing more you can do
 - c) Call law enforcement and secure the scene
 - d) Transport the patient to the hospital to be pronounced by an ED physician

8. You should attach a hard copy of which of the following to your documentation if available:
 - a) The ECG strip of asystole in all 3 leads
 - b) A copy of the valid Prehospital Medical Directive (Orange Form)
 - c) A list of the patient's medications
 - d) A list of the family members to be contacted

9. You should remain on scene until which of the following arrive:
 - a) Law enforcement
 - b) The coroner
 - c) The Donor Network
 - d) CSI

10. Your patient does not meet all inclusion criteria. What should be your next action:
 - a) Initiate BCLS and ACLS procedures and contact Medical Direction
 - b) Wait until the patients does meet all inclusion criteria the use the standing order
 - c) Do not touch the patient and wait for law enforcement to arrive
 - d) Ask the family what they want you to do

11. Who may use the Standing Order:
 - a) An ALS unit
 - b) A BLS unit
 - c) Both of the above
 - d) Neither of the above

Dead On Scene/Code 900/Do Not Resuscitate

If a valid Prehospital Medical Directive is presented, the patient still must be assessed

Provide law enforcement with the name of the agency and physician medical director when implementing the standing order.

No MEDS relay is required for Dead on Scene Standing Order Patients.

Remember to document the absence of a carotid pulse

Remember to document the absence of heart tones and lung sounds by auscultation.

Remember to obtain the badge name and number of the officer on scene.

Bibliography

1. Rottman SJ, Schriger DL, Charlop G, et al: On-line medical control versus protocol-based prehospital care. *Annals of Emergency Medicine* 1997; 30:1, 62 – 68.
2. Krafur J: What to do when EMS protocols don't fit. *National Association of Emergency Physicians Newsletter*. 2000; 9:3. 2-3.
3. Trauma Team EMS PROTOCOLS
[HTTP://WWW.SSGFX.COM/CP2020/MEDTECH/PROCEDURES/PROTOCOLS.HTM](http://www.ssgfx.com/CP2020/MEDTECH/PROCEDURES/PROTOCOLS.HTM)
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