

AUTHORITY

ADMINISTRATIVE 1.6

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 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 and the emergency medical services council 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, the local Regional Protocols, and the Medical Direction Authority shall guide the prehospital patient management activities of the EMS personnel and the on-line and administrative medical direction authorities. In accordance with R9-25-204, medical direction plans for a region shall include:
 - 1. Treatment Protocols: Statements, which define what treatments may be used within an emergency medical service's system and the circumstances in which they may be used.
 - 2. Triage Protocols: Guidelines for the development of triage protocols shall include provisions for
 - a. Patient's choice
 - b. Nature and severity of the illness or injury
 - c. Availability of special treatment facilities
 - 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

IV. SCENE CONTROL AND MEDICAL AUTHORITY

- A. Once public safety emergencies have been controlled and the scene secured, medical authority over individual patient care *at the scene* shall be initially assumed by the senior EMS responder from the agency with EMS jurisdiction over the location.

Accordingly,

1. Initial patient management and medical direction shall be guided by these local medical direction protocols and appropriate on-line contact with a medical direction authority.
2. Medical authority over individual patient care should be transferred to an EMS responder with a higher certification level, as available and as appropriate to the level of care needs of the patient.
3. Should scene medical authority conflicts occur regarding an individual patient's care, the jurisdictional, on-line medical direction authority should be immediately contacted.

V. SPECIAL NOTE

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