

EMT-BASIC AND PATIENT ASSISTED MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION

ADMINISTRATIVE 1.19

EMT's may assist with, or administer approved medications when those medications are indicated for the presenting complaint, or are prescribed for, and in the possession of that particular patient. The EMT must be familiar with the dosage, route of administration, actions and side effects of the medication. Patients must be reassessed following medication administration. Response to interventions must be documented.

- I. The following medications are carried on the emergency response vehicle which the EMT may administer to a patient prior to Medical Direction Authority contact
 - A. Oxygen
 - B. Oral Glucose Gel
 - C. ASA per Chest Pain Standing Order
 - D. Epinephrine Auto-Injector
- II. The following medication is also carried on the emergency response vehicle but requires Medical Direction Authority contact prior to administration
 - A. Activated Charcoal
- III. The following are medications that may be prescribed for a patient. The EMT may assist with administration.
 - A. Medications
 1. Nitroglycerin Tablets or Spray
 2. Metered Dose Inhalers
 - B. Administration: These medications may be given to the patient for whom they were prescribed prior to Medical Direction Authority contact if the following conditions are met:
 1. The patient would normally take the medication regardless of the presence of the EMT
 2. The symptoms of the patient's condition are familiar the patient
 3. The patient has not already exceeded the prescribed dose for that medication
 4. The patient is sufficiently alert (not hypoxic, hypotensive) to self-administer the medication. (Systolic BP must be > 100 prior to administering Nitroglycerin)
 5. The patient has physical strength to self-administer the medication
 6. The medication is in its original container and not expired

By allowing the patient to take the medications prescribed for them under the above circumstances, potential for complications from withholding these medications until Medical Direction Authority contact is made is reduced. The EMT should not interfere with what the patient's physician has already told them to do. In this case, the order for the medication has already been given by that patient's physician. The EMT presence is only a secondary issue.

- C. Medical Direction Authority contact is required prior to assisting with the administration of Nitroglycerin or Metered Dose Inhalers in the following situations:
 - 1. The patient is unsure whether to take the medication because
 - a. The symptoms or severity of the patient's condition are not typical
 - b. The patient has already exceeded the prescribed dose for that medication

IV. SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- A. When in doubt, consult the Medical Direction Authority
- B. Assure right medication, right patient, right dose, and right route
- C. Document the following on the patient care record.
 - a) Patient name
 - b) Agent name
 - c) Indications for administration
 - d) Dose administered
 - e) Route of Administration
 - f) Patient response

EFFECTIVE 11/97 REVISED 9/99; 10/02; 6/2004; 6/2005; 1/2007