



MEDICAL DIRECTOR APPROVAL



Escambia County, Florida – 1st Responder Medical Protocol

Charles Neal, D.O.
Medical Director
Escambia County Bureau of Public Safety
Escambia County, Florida

First Responder is the first line of help and will provide a uniform, consistent, and high-quality foundation for prehospital care. The protocols will support initial training of personnel, be reinforced through continuing education programs, and be applied in the delivery of patient care in the field.

First Responder personnel are permitted to perform patient care, within their defined training, when following the appropriate protocol(s). Each First Responder is responsible for being knowledgeable regarding current protocols so that he/she may provide the safest, highest quality and most effective care to patients.

Since written protocols cannot feasibly address all patient care situations that may develop, the Medical Director expects First Responder personnel to use their training and judgment regarding any protocol-driven care that would be harmful to a patient. **When the First Responder believes that following a protocol is not in the best interest of the patient, the First Responder should not carry out that protocol.** Cases where deviation from the protocol is justified are rare. The reason for any deviation should be documented. All deviations are subject to investigation to determine whether or not they were appropriate and whether changes are needed in the protocol. In all cases, First Responder personnel are expected to deliver care within level of certification.

Some specific concerns are noted below:

Hazards on scene:

Are a priority for your safety as well as for the patient's. Look over the scene; pay particular attention for downed power lines, chemical spills, placards, fumes, etc. **STOP, LOOK, LISTEN AND SMELL BEFORE YOU ENTER THE SCENE!**

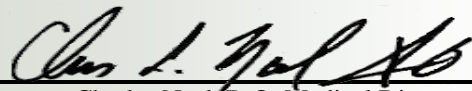
Universal precautions should be used to protect yourself and others from infectious hazards. See universal precautions guidelines, as contained in the infection control policy. (i.e. Infection Control Plans)



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Ammonia ampules:

Are not to be used by first responders because there is risk of further harm, especially in the potential head/neck/spine injured patient.

Spinal Immobilization:

Cervical collars, immobilization devices and backboards should be used liberally - **when in doubt, immobilize.** The spine should be manually immobilized promptly before any movement is attempted.

Suction:

Use only in the oropharyngeal area under direct vision. Do not probe blindly. Oxygenate before and after suctioning. Suction **no longer than 15 seconds** at a time.

Personal Equipment:

ACLS equipment and drugs are not to be used by first responders without prior approval of the Medical Director. State laws prohibit the use of such items and prohibits carrying this equipment in a vehicle that is not licensed to do so.

In order to operate by these standing orders, the first responder must meet these qualifications:


- A. Must have a current (successfully completed within the past two years) DOT- Curricula First Responder training.



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In order to meet this requirement, if it's been two years since your First Responder training, you may refresh by taking the DOT-Curricula First Responder refresher course,

or

by completing the initial First Responder training again.

- B. Must maintain current CPR “for the professional rescuer” certification (American Heart or American Red Cross are both acceptable.)
- C. In lieu of DOT-Curricula First Responder training, the following levels of certification are also acceptable:
 - Current Florida certification as an EMT
 - Current Florida certification as a Paramedic

Note: Advanced Life Support Skills are prohibited in first responder unless done with prior consent of the Escambia County Bureau of Public Safety's Medical Director.

D. First Responder Lead Instructors must hold the following certifications:

- (1) Certified Fire Instructor, by the Bureau of Fire Standards and Training.
- (2) Current State of Florida EMT certification or State of Florida Paramedic certification.
- (3) Current American Heart Association or American Red Cross Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Instructor.

E. Other Medical Personnel:

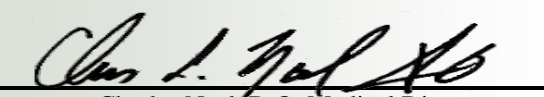
Individuals who are licensed as LPN's, RN's, DO's or MD's in the State of Florida must successfully complete and maintain current DOT First Responder certification in order to participate in organized first response.



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- F. In order to utilize AED, the First Responder must meet the following qualifications:
- (1) Be a member of a local organized first response agency (Fire Dept., EMS, industrial emergency team, etc.)
 - (2) Must attend an AED class every two years. You must have a proficiency review every six months.
 - (3) Must meet all the preceding qualifications to be a first responder.
- G. Escambia County Bureau of Public Safety Paramedics and EMT's (Emergency Medical Services and Career Fire Rescue) who serve as first responders shall use Escambia County Bureau of Public Safety ALS/BLS Protocols according to their level of certification and to the extent possible with available resources. (Remember to notify dispatch using your EMS/Fire radio number.)



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