

PEORIA AREA EMS SYSTEM PREHOSPITAL CARE MANUAL

FOREWORD

The format of the Peoria Area EMS System (PAEMS System) Prehospital care manuals has changed several times throughout the history of the System. The initial protocol manual (June 1983) consisted of ALS field treatment protocols. Changes in IDPH rules and regulations resulted in the addition of ILS protocols (July 1990), BLS protocols (November 1992) and First Responder protocols (April 1998). In 1994 the PAEMS System Policy Manual was developed to address medical-legal issues and concerns and, in 1995, procedures were formatted into a Standard Operating Procedure Manual.

With the complexity of a tiered response system and with the growing demand that health care services are both effective and efficient, the format for providing medical direction and patient care guidelines changed again in 2002. The separate manuals outlining field treatment guidelines, policies and procedures were all combined into one manual, the *Prehospital Care Manual*. This manual has become the focal point for patient care for Peoria Area EMS System providers in the Prehospital setting.

In 2006, dramatic changes were made to the protocols to reflect changing national trends in an effort to provide optimal patient care. This current update reflects changes in AHA guidelines as well as some other evidence-based information (from local and national research) that dictates some needed changes to improve patient care.

The intent of this manual is to create a *team approach* to Prehospital care, resulting in optimum patient care that is both efficient and effective. The focus of this manual is on providing safe, well-planned care for the patients we serve as well as maintaining a safe environment for the Prehospital care provider. This manual is also meant to be used as a study guide and helpful reference when necessary.

All information contained herein is intended for use within the Peoria Area EMS System. No other system's protocols, policies, or procedures shall supersede the guidelines set forth in this manual or be utilized in place of this manual by a provider in the Peoria Area EMS System without the approval of the Peoria Area EMS System Medical Director.