

## PEORIA AREA EMS SYSTEM PREHOSPITAL CARE MANUAL

### Transition of Care Policy

A smooth transition of care between EMS providers is essential for optimum patient care. First Responder and BLS non-transport crews routinely transfer care to transporting EMS providers. The transfer of advanced procedures presents unique concerns for both the EMS provider relinquishing patient care as well as the EMS provider assuming patient care. A smooth transition between providers is essential for good patient care. Cooperation between all EMS personnel is encouraged and expected.

#### Patient Care Transition Procedure

1. EMS providers arriving at the scene of a call shall initiate care in accordance with the guidelines provided in this manual. The EMS provider must maintain a constant awareness as to what would be the best course of action for optimum and compassionate patient care. *Focus should be placed on conducting a thorough patient assessment and providing adequate BLS care.* The benefit of remaining on scene to establish specific treatments versus prompt transport to a definitive care facility should be a consideration of each patient contact.
2. Once on scene, the EMS transporting agency shall, in conjunction with Medical Control, be the on-scene authority having jurisdiction in the determination of the patient care plan. The rank or seniority of a non-transport provider shall not supersede the authority vested in the transporting EMS provider by the EMS Medical Director.
3. Upon the arrival of the transporting agency, the non-transport provider should provide a detailed verbal report to the transporting provider and then **immediately transfer care to the transporting provider.** The non-transport provider may continue the establishment of BLS/ILS/ALS procedures with the concurrence of the transporting provider.
4. The transport provider should obtain report from the non-transport provider and conduct a thorough patient assessment. Treatment initiated by the non-transport provider should be taken into consideration in determining subsequent patient care steps.
5. If the provider has initiated advanced procedures, then the transport provider should verify the integrity of the procedure prior to utilizing it for further treatment (*e.g.* verify patency of peripheral IVs and ETTs should be checked for proper placement). *Transporting crews shall not arbitrarily avoid the use of (or discontinue) an advanced procedure established by non-transport personnel.* Rationale for discontinuing an established procedure should be documented on the patient care report.

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**Patient Care Transition Procedure (continued)**

6. Properly licensed and System-certified providers may be utilized to establish ILS/ALS procedures with the concurrence of the transporting provider. EMS personnel are encouraged to use all responders for efficiency in coordinating patient care.