

REGIONAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

NEW YORK CITY



PREHOSPITAL TREATMENT PROTOCOLS

# GENERAL OPERATING PROCEDURES

July 2006

## GENERAL OPERATING PROCEDURES

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# REGIONAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COUNCIL OF NEW YORK CITY

## GENERAL OPERATING PROCEDURES

***These General Operating Procedures Apply To All Levels Of Prehospital Providers Unless Stated Otherwise***

### **PURPOSE**

The Regional Emergency Medical Advisory Committee (REMAC) of New York City Prehospital Treatment Protocols define the minimum standard of care provided to patients by Certified First Responders (CFRs), Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs), Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians-Critical Care (AEMT-CCs) and Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians-Paramedic (AEMT-Ps) in New York City. These protocols reflect both the curriculum and certification requirements of the New York State Department of Health Bureau of Emergency Medical Services and the Regional Emergency Medical Advisory Committee (REMAC) of New York City, and have been endorsed by the Regional Emergency Medical Services Council of New York City. These protocols are guidelines that should be used in conjunction with good clinical judgment.

### **SCOPE**

These protocols apply to all CFRs, EMTs, AEMT-CCs and AEMT-Ps who are certified by the New York State Department of Health and by the Regional Emergency Medical Advisory Committee (REMAC) of New York City, including supervisory and administrative personnel, operating within the New York City region.

### **RESPONSIBILITIES**

CFRs, EMTs, AEMT-CCs and AEMT-Ps shall provide appropriate care in accordance with these Prehospital Protocols as indicated by the patient's complaint and/or condition without exceeding the limit of their training.

### **MEDICAL CONTROL AT THE SCENE**

In accordance with Article 30 of the New York State Public Health Law, the Regional Emergency Medical Services Council is responsible for the coordination of emergency medical services within the region. In accordance with Article 30 of the New York State Public Health Law, the Regional Emergency Medical Advisory Committee (REMAC) is responsible for the medical oversight of the emergency medical service system within the region.

In accordance with the Regional Protocol on Coordination of Prehospital Resources, the highest level prehospital provider from the EMS Agency which first arrives at the scene of a prehospital medical emergency is responsible for coordination of patient care resources at the scene. In accordance with the Regional Protocol on Coordination of Prehospital Resources, when a NYC "911" participating EMS Agency is not the first EMS Agency on the scene and is not acting in the role of the primary care provider, it shall act as an operational resource for information regarding hospital diversions, specialty

## GENERAL OPERATING PROCEDURES

referral center bed availability, and other specialized resources, as well as incident scene safety (e.g., environmental conditions, crowd/traffic control in the absence of NYPD, potentially dangerous patient or family member to self and/or others).

The Fire Department, City of New York (FDNY) is responsible for coordination of patient care resources at the scene of Multiple Casualty Incidents (MCIs), unscheduled MEDEVAC transports, Hazardous Material (HAZMAT) situations which require decontamination, fires/crimes in progress or unusual public health or safety emergencies. At the point that FDNY assumes operational responsibility for coordination of prehospital resources, incident command procedures are in effect. (See "Coordination of Prehospital Resources Protocol")

In all cases where EMTs are present at the scene of a medical emergency and AEMTs are not present, EMTs are responsible for medical control at the scene. EMTs shall also assume medical control at the scene if EMTs and CFRs are present; CFRs shall assume medical control at the scene until the arrival of EMTs. AEMTs shall assume medical control at the scene if AEMTs and EMTs and/or CFRs are present. AEMT-Ps shall assume medical control at the scene if AEMT-CCs are present. On calls where AEMTs encounter multiple patients requiring Advanced Life Support treatment and the Transportation Decision requires the use of available Basic Life Support units, any Advanced Life Support protocols initiated by the AEMTs should continue enroute as long as an AEMT is attending the patient.

AEMTs may release patients not having received or not requiring Advanced Life Support care to Basic Life Support personnel for care and transportation to a medical facility. However, under no circumstances shall an AEMT or EMT transfer responsibility for patient care to a CFR once patient care has been initiated by an AEMT or EMT. This does not relieve CFRs of their patient care responsibilities.

**NOTE: PROVIDERS TRAINED IN DEFIBRILLATION MAY NOT ABDICATE RESPONSIBILITY FOR DEFIBRILLATION TO PROVIDERS NOT TRAINED IN DEFIBRILLATION.**

AEMT/EMT/CFR medical control includes, but is not limited to, decisions involving patient care, movement, and transportation, in accordance with scope of practice, these protocols, and agency policy.

If a prehospital care provider receives an order from a public safety official that is detrimental to the patient's condition, contrary to good patient care, or in violation of these Protocols or agency policy, the crew shall inform the official of such and continue providing appropriate care.

If the official persists, the crew shall request a prehospital care supervisor from the appropriate agency to respond to the scene.

Upon completion of the assignment, the crew shall prepare a written statement and forward it to the Regional Emergency Medical Advisory Committee via appropriate supervisory personnel.

Physicians providing Direct Medical Control at the scene as part of an organized response to a medical emergency by an EMS System/Agency must be credentialed by the EMS System/Agency to provide On-Line Medical Control. Such physicians must be credentialed by REMAC as On-Line Medical Control Physicians, and must limit the provision of Direct Medical Control to the scope of practice described in these protocols.

## GENERAL OPERATING PROCEDURES

**NOTE: UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES MAY CFRS, EMTS, AND AEMTS PROVIDE EMERGENCY TREATMENT THAT EXCEEDS THE LIMIT OF THEIR TRAINING.**

Physicians providing Direct Medical Control at the scene must have their names, and New York State License Numbers or REMAC On-Line Medical Control Physician Numbers documented on the Prehospital Care Report/Ambulance Call Report.

**NOTE: UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES MAY PHYSICIANS PROVIDE DIRECT MEDICAL CONTROL TO CFRS, EMTS, AND AEMTS OUTSIDE OF THE EMS SYSTEM/AGENCY THAT CREDENTIALS THEM.**

In the event that a physician who appropriately identifies himself/herself appears at the scene and only wishes to intervene in Basic Life Support care, the EMTs/AEMTs will present the physician with a document outlining the agency's policy regarding "Non-Solicited Medical Intervention". The on-scene physician's requests concerning emergency care and movement of the patient should be followed provided they do not conflict with Basic Life Support Standing Orders, policies and procedures. The on-scene physician's name and address shall be noted in the comment section of the Prehospital Care Report (PCR). If any conflicts arise with the on-scene physician, the EMTs/AEMTs shall contact Medical Control and proceed as directed.

In the event that a physician who appropriately identifies himself/herself appears at the scene and also wishes to intervene in Advanced Life Support care, the AEMT will present the physician with a document outlining the agency's policy regarding "Non-Solicited Medical Intervention", and must contact Medical Control to approve the AEMT taking orders from the physician. If granted approval, the on-scene physician's requests concerning emergency care and movement of the patient should be followed provided they are confined to Advanced Life Support Standing Orders and Medical Control Options contained in the appropriate protocol. In such cases, the on-scene physician may not order Discretionary Decisions. The on-scene physician's name and address and Regional Emergency Medical Advisory Committee (REMAC) of New York City Medical Control number (if applicable) shall be noted in the comment section of the Prehospital Care Report (PCR). If any conflicts arise with the on-scene physician, the EMTs/AEMTs shall contact Medical Control (if available) and proceed as directed. If the AEMT is unable to establish contact with Medical Control, the AEMT, at his/her option, may follow directions from the on-scene physician within the context of the protocols.

In the event that any licensed health care professional other than a physician appears at the scene and wishes to direct AEMT care, the AEMT is to maintain responsibility for the care of the patient.

### SCENE SAFETY

It is the responsibility of the CFRs/EMTs/AEMTs to evaluate and judge the scene with regard to safety. Safety factors include, but are not limited to, environmental conditions, crowd/traffic control, potentially dangerous patient or family member to self and/or others, Hazardous Material (HAZMAT) situations, fires/crimes in progress, or unusual public health or safety emergencies. Such conditions may be a threat to the health or safety of CFRs/EMTs/AEMTs, patients, and other persons at the

## GENERAL OPERATING PROCEDURES

scene. CFRs/EMTs/ AEMTs must use caution in situations that they are not trained or equipped to handle.

In accordance with the Regional Procedure on Coordination of Prehospital Resources, CFRs/EMTs/AEMTs may use a NYC "911" system participating agency as an operational resource for incident scene safety (e.g., environmental conditions, crowd/traffic control in the absence of NYPD, potentially dangerous patient or family member to self and/or others); and must notify FDNY in situations involving

Multiple Casualty Incidents (MCIs), unscheduled MEDEVAC transports, Hazardous Material (HAZMAT) situations which require decontamination, fires/crimes in progress, or unusual public health or safety emergencies. (See "Coordination of Prehospital Resources Protocol".)

### REQUESTING ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE

When CFRs respond to an assignment where the patient's condition requires further treatment and/or transport, additional assistance should be requested as soon as possible.

When EMTs respond to an assignment where the patient's condition requires Advanced Life Support, EMTs should request Advanced Life Support assistance as soon as possible.

### INITIATING TRANSPORT

When CFRs, EMTs and AEMTs are on the scene of an assignment and requesting advanced life support, other medical assistance, or ambulance transport, patient transport procedures should begin in accordance with their level of training. For non transporting EMS Agencies, ambulance transport should begin once an appropriate transport vehicle from the designated transporting agency is available.

When EMTs are on the scene of an assignment and requesting Advanced Life Support assistance, transport procedures should begin. If the time of arrival of Advanced Life Support exceeds the time to the hospital, transport from the scene should not be delayed.

### TRANSPORTATION PROCEDURES AND DECISIONS

The term "Transport" appears throughout the Basic Life Support Protocols. The term "Transportation Decision" appears throughout the Advanced Life Support Protocols. These terms encompass all of the following Basic Life Support Transportation Procedures and Advanced Life Support Transportation Decisions:

#### Basic Life Support Transportation Procedures

- Manner of extrication, when required, and preparation of the patient for transport;

## GENERAL OPERATING PROCEDURES

- Safe conveyance of the patient from the scene to the ambulance on appropriate equipment in an appropriate position;
- Transportation of the patient in a properly equipped ambulance in accordance with current staffing policies of the Regional Emergency Medical Advisory Committee (REMAC) of New York City;

### Advanced Life Support Transportation Decisions

- Timing of transport in consultation with Medical Control (e.g., before, during or after Medical Control Options and/or Discretionary Decisions);
- Designation of another unit to transport the patient (e.g., Basic Life Support unit, mortuary unit).

Once appropriate treatment has been initiated in accordance with these protocols, and an Advanced Life Support Decision has been made if appropriate, EMTs/AEMTs should transport the patient as soon as possible to the nearest appropriate hospital:

### Acute Stroke

If the historical/physical findings indicate an acute stroke, transport the patient to the nearest NYS DOH designated Stroke Center (See Appendix R, Stroke Patient Criteria), unless **one** of the following conditions is met:

- The patient's condition deteriorates to extremis;
- The patient is in cardiac arrest;
- The patient has an unmanageable airway;
- The patient has other medical conditions that warrant transport to the closest appropriate hospital emergency department as per protocol;
- The total time from when the patient's symptoms and/or signs first began to when the patient is expected to arrive at the Stroke Center is greater than two (2) hours;
- The closest NYS DOH designated Stroke Center is **more** than 20 minutes away;
- An on-line medical control physician so directs .

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**NOTE: PATIENTS WITH UNMANAGEABLE AIRWAYS MUST BE TAKEN TO THE NEAREST NEW YORK CITY 911 SYSTEM AMBULANCE DESTINATION EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT.**

### Major Trauma

If the mechanism of illness/injury and/or historical/physical findings indicate major trauma, transport the patient to the nearest New York City 911 System Trauma Center (see Appendix F), unless **one** of the following conditions is met:

The patient is in cardiac arrest;

The patient has an unmanageable airway:

An on-line medical control physician so directs.

## GENERAL OPERATING PROCEDURES

**NOTE: PATIENTS IN CARDIAC ARREST OR WITH UNMANAGEABLE AIRWAYS MUST BE TAKEN TO THE NEAREST NEW YORK CITY 911 SYSTEM AMBULANCE DESTINATION EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT.**

### Major Burns

If the mechanism of illness/injury and/or historical/physical findings indicate major burns, transport the patient to the nearest New York City 911 System Burn Center (see Appendix G), unless **one** of the following conditions is met:

- The patient also has major trauma;
- The patient is in cardiac arrest;
- The patient has an unmanageable airway;
- An on-line medical control physician so directs.

**NOTE: PATIENTS WITH MAJOR BURNS AND MAJOR TRAUMA MUST BE TAKEN TO THE NEAREST NEW YORK CITY 911 SYSTEM TRAUMA CENTER.**

**PATIENTS IN CARDIAC ARREST OR WITH UNMANAGEABLE AIRWAYS MUST BE TAKEN TO THE NEAREST NEW YORK CITY 911 SYSTEM AMBULANCE DESTINATION EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT.**

### Specialty Care

If the mechanism of illness/injury and/or historical/physical findings indicate a need for another type of specialty care, transport the patient to the nearest New York City 911 System Specialty Referral Center (see Appendix H). These include:

- Hyperbaric Center;
- Replantation Centers;
- Spinal Cord Injury Centers;
- Venomous Bite Center.

### Other Care

If the mechanism of illness/injury and/or historical/physical findings do **NOT** indicate major trauma or burns or a need for these other types of specialty care, transport the patient to the nearest New York City 911 System Ambulance Destination Emergency Department (see Appendix I), unless **one** of the following conditions is met:

- The patient remains stable or potentially unstable throughout transport, **AND** the patient requests treatment or receives regular medical/surgical care at an alternative destination, **AND** the additional transport time to the alternative destination is **LESS THAN TEN MINUTES**;
- The patient requires specialty care available at the alternative destination that is unavailable at the nearest New York City 911 System Specialty referral Center;
- An on-line medical control physician so directs.

## GENERAL OPERATING PROCEDURES

**NOTE: PATIENTS WHO BECOME CRITICAL OR UNSTABLE MUST BE TRANSPORTED TO THE NEAREST NEW YORK CITY 911 SYSTEM AMBULANCE DESTINATION EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT.**

### CARDIOPULMONARY RESUSCITATION

Basic Cardiac Life Support in adults, children, infants, and newborns should conform to the current guidelines set by the American Heart Association and the American Red Cross. The following guidelines apply to the initiation and termination of CPR:

CPR should be initiated on all patients who are not breathing (apneic) and pulseless unless one of the following conditions exists:

Extreme dependent lividity;

Rigor mortis;

Tissue decomposition;

Obvious mortal injury; **or**

A valid Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) order is present. (See Appendix C.)

**NOTE: TERMINAL ILLNESS IS NOT A CONTRAINDICATION TO CPR.**

CPR should also be initiated in newborns, infants, and children under 9 years of age with heart rates less than 60 (severe bradycardia) and signs of inadequate central (proximal) perfusion (decompensated shock).

**NOTE: CPR IS NECESSARY IN NEWBORNS, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN UNDER 9 YEARS OF AGE WITH EXTREMELY SLOW HEART RATES AND POOR VITAL ORGAN PERFUSION TO ENSURE ADEQUATE CIRCULATION TO THE HEART, LUNGS, AND BRAIN.**

CPR should be continued until one of the following occurs:

- Spontaneous circulation has been restored;
- Resuscitative efforts have been transferred to providers of equal or higher level of training;
- A qualified, licensed physician assumes responsibility for the outcome of the patient;
- The crew is exhausted to the point of not being able to continue resuscitative efforts.

### AIRWAY MANAGEMENT

All patients require continuous monitoring of their airways to ensure airway patency. Wherever the term "Monitor Airway" is used throughout these protocols, the following elements shall be utilized:

Position of the patient's head

Need for airway adjuncts

Need for oropharyngeal suctioning

## GENERAL OPERATING PROCEDURES

Need for Advanced Life Support airway management techniques

Use of Pulse Oximetry ( $S_pO_2$ ):

- **Mandatory for Advanced Life Support (Effective date: July 1, 2005)**
- Optional for Basic Life Support
- Use of secondary form of Endotracheal Tube confirmation (Example: End Tidal Capnography (ETCO<sub>2</sub>). *Secondary confirmation devices are not a substitute for primary confirmation techniques that rely upon direct visualization and auscultation, but serve as an additional method of documenting proper endotracheal tube placement.*

**NOTE: NASAL INTUBATION IS CONSIDERED TO BE AN UNACCEPTABLE FORM OF AIRWAY MANAGEMENT WITHIN THE NEW YORK CITY REGION.**

**OXYGEN ADMINISTRATION**

**NOTE: ALL PATIENTS WHO ARE IN RESPIRATORY ARREST MUST HAVE VENTILATORY ASSISTANCE UNLESS A VALID DNR ORDER EXISTS.**

**DO NOT USE A DEMAND VALVE RESUSCITATOR DUE TO THE POSSIBILITY OF CAUSING SEVERE, LIFE-THREATENING COMPLICATIONS.**

Adult patients who require supplemental oxygen should receive high concentration oxygen via a non-rebreathing mask set at 10 to 15 liters per minute. The reservoir bag must remain at least one-third full following inspiration. If a mask is not tolerated by the patient, a nasal cannula set at 6 liters per minute should be used and such use properly documented.

Patients who are chronically maintained on oxygen and do not require high concentration oxygen shall be administered oxygen at their prescribed rate of flow.

**NOTE: THERE IS NO REASON TO WITHHOLD HIGH CONCENTRATION OXYGEN WHEN REQUIRED IN ADULT PATIENTS.**

For Adult patients breathing at a rate less than 8 or greater than 24 times per minute and/or exhibiting signs of inadequate respiration, assisted ventilations may be required. The presence of a valid DNR order does not alter this requirement for a patient who is not in respiratory or cardiac arrest. This should be done utilizing one of the following methods:

- Pocket mask with supplemental oxygen set at 10-15 liters/minute.
- Bag-Valve-Mask and reservoir with flow set at 10-15 liters/minute.
- Mouth-to-mouth or mouth-to-mouth and nose (at provider option, only when adjuncts are not available).

Pediatric patients who require oxygen should receive high concentration oxygen via the mask that best fits around the mouth and nose, preferably a non-rebreathing mask. Humidified oxygen is preferred. If a mask is not tolerated, then "blow by" oxygen is acceptable.

## GENERAL OPERATING PROCEDURES

**NOTE: HIGH CONCENTRATION OXYGEN SHOULD ALWAYS BE USED IN PEDIATRIC PATIENTS.**

Pediatric patients exhibiting signs of respiratory failure require assisted ventilations via a mask that completely covers the mouth and nose, but not the eyes. This shall be done utilizing one of the following methods:

- Pocket mask with supplemental oxygen set at 10-15 liters/minute;
- Bag-Valve-Mask and reservoir with flow set at 10-15 liters/minute;
- Mouth-to-mouth (or mouth and nose) at provider option, only when adjuncts are not available.

**DEFINITION OF COMPENSATED SHOCK**

Any adult patient having a **systolic** blood pressure **ABOVE** 90 mm Hg **AND** exhibiting signs of inadequate perfusion, which may include:

- Altered mental status (e.g., agitation, confusion);
- Increased Pulse Rate (Tachycardia);
- Pale Skin (Pallor);
- Cool, Clammy Skin (Diaphoresis);
- Pale conjunctiva;
- Delayed capillary refill;
- ***Orthostatic vital sign changes (EMT and AEMT only)***

Any pediatric patient with signs of inadequate **peripheral** (distal) perfusion, which may include:

- Altered mental status (e.g., agitation, confusion);
- Increased Pulse Rate (Tachycardia);
- Pale Skin (Pallor);
- Cool, cyanotic lower extremities;
- "Blotchy" Skin (Mottling);
- Delayed capillary refill;
- Weak or absent **peripheral** (distal) pulses (radial, tibial, pedal).

**NOTE: THE DEFINITION OF SHOCK IN THE PEDIATRIC PATIENT DOES NOT DEPEND UPON BLOOD PRESSURE.**

## GENERAL OPERATING PROCEDURES

**DEFINITION OF DECOMPENSATED SHOCK**

Any adult patient having a **systolic** blood pressure **BELOW** 90 mm Hg **AND** exhibiting signs of inadequate perfusion, which may include:

- Altered mental status (e.g., lethargy, coma);
- Increased Pulse Rate (Tachycardia);
- Pale Skin (Pallor);
- Cool, Clammy Skin (Diaphoresis);
- Pale conjunctiva;
- Delayed capillary refill;
- **Orthostatic vital sign changes (EMT and AEMT only)**

Any pediatric patient having a **systolic** blood pressure **BELOW** 70 mm/Hg + 2x age in years], **OR** the following signs of inadequate **central** (proximal) perfusion:

- Altered mental status (e.g., lethargy, coma);
- Extensive cyanosis of all extremities;
- Weak or impalpable **central** (proximal) pulses (femoral, brachial, carotid).

**CONTROL OF EXTERNAL BLEEDING**

Whenever the term "Control external bleeding" is used throughout these protocols, the following elements must be considered:

- Application of direct pressure with a sterile dressing.
- Elevation of the injured part above the level of the heart.
- Application of a pressure dressing.

**Only when these measures fail should the following elements be considered:**

- Application of pressure to proper arterial pressure point.

**MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION**

CFRs, EMTs and AEMTs may allow a patient to self-administer the patient's own medication as prescribed by the patient's physician.

## GENERAL OPERATING PROCEDURES

### SUSPECTED CHILD/SPOUSE/ELDER ABUSE

Whenever child, spouse, or elder abuse is suspected, visually assess the scene for evidence of possible abuse, and record all appropriate information on the Prehospital Care Report (PCR). In addition to the written report, make a verbal report summarizing the above to the responsible medical personnel upon arrival at the Emergency Department.

New York State Social Services Law considers EMTs and AEMTs, but not CFRs, to be mandatory child abuse reporters under New York State Social Services Law. Failure to report suspected cases of child abuse to the New York State Child Abuse and Maltreatment Register (“State Central Register”) may subject the EMT or AEMT to liability for criminal and civil prosecution and penalties. Notification of suspected child abuse is to be accomplished in accordance with agency policy. The State Central Register may be contacted by telephone at 1-800-635-1522.

**NOTE: DO NOT DELAY TRANSPORT TO OBTAIN THE INFORMATION NEEDED TO COMPLETE THE ABOVE REPORTS.**

**DO NOT MAKE ACCUSATORY, CONFRONTATIONAL, ANGRY OR THREATENING STATEMENTS TO THE PARTIES PRESENT, OR ATTEMPT TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION AT THE SCENE.**

### ABANDONED INFANT PROTECTION ACT

New York State Social Services Law states that infants five days of age or younger may be abandoned by their parents or caretakers in a suitable safe location, such as a hospital, ambulance, police station, or fire house, or with an appropriate person. Some of these parents or caretakers may wish to remain anonymous, but if they offer their name and address, they should be recorded in the comment section of the Prehospital Care Report.

If an infant is abandoned to the care of a CFR, EMT, or AEMT, the CFR, EMT, or AEMT should refer to the Regional Protocol on Care of the Newly Born, if appropriate, and transport the infant to the nearest appropriate hospital. The parents or caretakers should be informed of the hospital destination, and told they may contact the hospital for further information should they wish to do so.

**NOTE: THE ABANDONED INFANT PROTECTION ACT DOES NOT RELIEVE THE EMT OR AEMT OF THE RESPONSIBILITY TO REPORT SUCH ABANDONMENT TO THE NEW YORK STATE CHILD ABUSE AND MALTREATMENT REGISTER (“STATE CENTRAL REGISTER”). THE STATE CENTRAL REGISTER MAY BE CONTACTED BY TELEPHONE AT 1-800-635-1522.**

**THE ABANDONED INFANT PROTECTION ACT DOES PROVIDE THE PARENT OR CARETAKER WITH AN ACCEPTABLE DEFENSE AGAINST PROSECUTION FOR INFANT ABANDONMENT.**

## GENERAL OPERATING PROCEDURES

### PEDIATRIC PATIENTS

Any patient under 14 years of age shall be considered a pediatric patient, and the appropriate protocols shall be used. To further define pediatric patients, the following age separations shall be used:

- Premature - birth prior to the eighth month of gestation;
- Newly born - immediately following birth;
- Infant - from birth to 1 year;
- Child - from 1 year to less than 14 years of age.

Avoid agitating pediatric patients. Conducting an assessment or treatment procedure, which is not tolerated by the patient, may provoke or increase respiratory distress.

Obtaining a blood pressure is not necessary when it agitates the patient or delays transport.

When available, pediatric AED-capable pads and cables shall be used for all pediatric patients aged 1 – 8 years of age.

If pediatric AED-capable pads and cables are not available, the adult AED and adult AED-capable pads and cables shall be used for all pediatric patients aged 1 year and older.

Every attempt should be made to keep pediatric patients warm during transport.

If an appropriate pediatric protocol does not exist, follow the adult protocol that would be indicated.

#### **NOTE: USE INFANT OR CHILD TECHNIQUES AND RATES FOR CPR AND ASSISTED VENTILATIONS IN PEDIATRIC PATIENTS UNDER 9 YEARS OF AGE**

**AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATION SHOULD NOT BE DELAYED OR WITHHELD FOR ANY REASON IN PATIENTS 1 YEAR OF AGE OR OLDER WHO PRESENT WITH NON-TRAUMATIC CARDIAC ARREST.**

### MINORS

A person under the age of 18 is a minor. Any minor with a life-threatening condition should be treated and transported without delay. A minor may request or refuse treatment without parental consent under the Laws of Emancipation if the minor:

- Is a mother;
- Is married;
- Has left home and is self-supporting;
- Is enlisted in the Armed Forces;
- Is requesting treatment for a sexually transmitted disease, drug abuse, or child abuse.

Minors are considered emancipated only during the period when they can be placed into one of the above categories.

#### **NOTE: PATIENTS CATEGORIZED AS MINORS WHO ARE 14 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER SHALL BE TREATED UNDER THE ADULT PROTOCOLS.**

## GENERAL OPERATING PROCEDURES

### STANDARD APPROACH TO THE PATIENT

1. Perform Initial Scene Survey.

**NOTE: REFRAIN FROM MAKING DIRECT CONTACT WITH PATIENTS EXPOSED TO HAZARDOUS MATERIALS UNTIL THEY HAVE BEEN DECONTAMINATED.**

2. Initiate Basic Cardiac Life Support, if appropriate.
3. Perform Initial Assessment (Primary Survey). (See Appendix B.)
4. Administer oxygen, if appropriate.
5. Monitor breathing for adequacy.
6. Determine if Advanced Life Support assistance is required.
7. Obtain at least two sets of vital signs and monitor as necessary.

**NOTE: OBTAINING VITAL SIGNS SHOULD NOT INTERFERE WITH TREATMENT OR DELAY TRANSPORT OF THE CRITICALLY ILL OR INJURED PATIENT.**

8. Obtain a focused medical history.
9. Complete the detailed physical examination as the patient's condition dictates.
10. Treat the patient according to the appropriate REMAC of New York City protocol(s).
11. Provide continuous emotional support.
12. Maintain body temperature.
13. Transport the patient as soon as possible to the nearest appropriate facility.
14. Patients may be removed to the ambulance by stair chair, scoop stretcher, long board, ambulance cot, or other appropriate means.

**NOTE: THE METHOD OF TRANSPORTATION SHOULD NOT AGGRAVATE THE PATIENT'S CONDITION OR INJURIES.**

**FOR TRAUMA PATIENTS, IMMEDIATE TRANSPORT IS A PRIORITY!**

15. Monitor and continue patient care enroute to the hospital, unless relieved by a provider with a higher level of training.
16. Document all findings and information, as they pertain to patient condition or care, on the Prehospital Care Report.

## GENERAL OPERATING PROCEDURES

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The following General Operating Procedures Apply To AEMTs Only

### INTERPRETATION OF PROTOCOLS

The Advanced Life Support (Critical Care and Paramedic) Treatment Protocols are for the use of the AEMT in the field and the Medical Control physician. They have been developed to ensure high quality, standardized prehospital emergency medical care. The protocols are specific for Advanced Life Support treatment. Patient assessment and Basic Life Support treatment have not been enumerated herein. However, they are the foundation upon which these protocols are based, and are always to be performed as necessary. All references to Basic Life Support procedures refer to the appropriate Regional Emergency Medical Advisory Committee (REMAC) of New York City Basic Life Support Treatment Protocols.

Protocols 501 through 521 apply to **adult** patients 14 years of age and older. (For patients 14 years of age and older who weigh less than 40 kg, see the Pharmacology Table below for appropriate drug dosages.) Protocols 527 through 528 apply to all patients. Protocols 540 through 559 apply to **pediatric** patients 13 years of age or younger.

### STANDING ORDERS

Standing Orders may be performed without contacting Medical Control. However, Medical Control may be used as a resource at any time prior to the implementation or completion of Standing Orders.

Unless specific conditions are outlined in a protocol, Endotracheal Intubation may be performed under Standing Orders whenever it is required for advanced airway management. Other methods of advanced airway management (e.g., Dual Lumen Esophageal/Tracheal Intubation) are permitted as an alternative to Endotracheal Intubation provided that they have been approved by the Regional Emergency Medical Advisory Committee (REMAC) of New York City.

### BLOOD DRAWING

Blood drawing by AEMTs in the field is no longer routinely performed, but is permitted for glucose level determination prior to administration of dextrose at the discretion of the EMS Agency Medical Director.

### MEDICAL CONTROL OPTIONS

Medical Control Options require contact with Medical Control prior to their implementation. Once Medical Control has been contacted, only those options listed in the particular protocol(s) being utilized may be considered.

## GENERAL OPERATING PROCEDURES

**PREHOSPITAL SEDATION****Definition of Prehospital Sedation:**

Prehospital sedation is a fully monitored pharmacologic intervention applied in instances where conscious patients may need short-term analgesic and/or anxiolytic therapy for procedures that may be painful or anxiety producing, such as Endotracheal Intubation, Synchronized Cardioversion, and Transcutaneous Pacing. Prior Permission from Medical Control Is Required.

**Indications for Prehospital Sedation:****Conscious patients requiring *Endotracheal Intubation***

- a) Administer Diazepam 5 – 10 mg, IV/Saline Lock bolus. Repeat doses of Diazepam 5 – 10 mg, IV/Saline Lock bolus, may be given as necessary. (Maximum total dosage is 20 mg.)  
OR
- b) Administer Midazolam 1 – 2 mg, IV/Saline Lock bolus. Repeat doses of Midazolam 1 mg, IV/Saline Lock bolus, may be given as necessary. (Maximum total dosage is 5 mg.)  
OR
- c) Administer Etomidate 0.3 mg/kg, IV/Saline Lock bolus, over 30-60 seconds. (Maximum total dose is 20 mg.) After successful intubation, consider Diazepam 5 mg IV/Saline Lock bolus or Midazolam 2 mg, IV/Saline Lock or IM, for continued sedation.

**Conscious patients requiring *Synchronized Cardioversion* OR *Transcutaneous Pacing***

- a) Administer Diazepam 5 – 10 mg, IV/Saline Lock bolus. Repeat doses of Diazepam 5 – 10 mg, IV/Saline Lock bolus, may be given as necessary. (Maximum total dosage is 20 mg.)  
OR
- b) Administer Midazolam 1 – 2 mg, IV/Saline Lock bolus. Repeat doses of Midazolam 1 mg, IV/Saline Lock bolus, may be given as necessary. (Maximum total dosage is 5 mg.)

**NOTE: PATIENTS RECEIVING PREHOSPITAL SEDATION MUST BE CONTINUOUSLY ADMINISTERED HIGH CONCENTRATION OXYGEN AND MUST BE CONTINUOUSLY MONITORED USING CARDIAC MONITORING AND PULSE OXIMETRY (IF AVAILABLE).**

**DEFINITION OF STABLE DYSRHYTHMIAS**

For the purpose of these protocols, a stable dysrhythmia is defined as follows:

- Any adult patient having a dysrhythmia NOT associated with signs of hypoperfusion
- Any pediatric patient having a dysrhythmia NOT associated with depressed mental status and absent peripheral pulses and/or hypotension, i.e., decompensated shock.

## GENERAL OPERATING PROCEDURES

### DEFINITION OF UNSTABLE DYSRHYTHMIAS

For the purposes of these protocols, an unstable dysrhythmia is defined as:

***Any adult patient having a dysrhythmia associated with:***

- Hypotension (systolic blood pressure BELOW 90 mm Hg), i.e., decompensated shock;
- Altered mental status (e.g., agitation, confusion);
- Persistent chest pain;
- Shortness of breath;
- Congestive heart failure;
- Possible myocardial infraction.

***Any pediatric patient having a dysrhythmia associated with:***

- Depressed mental status and absent peripheral pulses
- Hypotension (systolic blood pressure BELOW 70 mm Hg + [2x age in years]), i.e., decompensated shock.

### DISCRETIONARY DECISIONS

These protocols should be considered as the “model” guidelines by which all patients should be treated. Since patients do not always fit into a rigid formula approach, situations may occur which do not fit these guidelines. For patients who do not fit into a rigid formula approach, or where there is no existing protocol and a clear need for Advanced Life Support exists, the term "Discretionary Decision" shall be utilized between the AEMT and the Medical Control physician.

The AEMT shall initiate appropriate therapy (oxygen administration, cardiac monitoring, intravenous access, and/or transportation) and should contact Medical Control in order to differentiate the most emergent clinical problem and define the most suitable therapy. At that time, the Medical Control physician shall order the most appropriate treatment within the AEMT's scope of practice. AEMTs should not exceed their level of training while carrying out a Discretionary Decision.

## GENERAL OPERATING PROCEDURES

### *Discretionary decisions may include, but are not limited to:*

Use of drugs contained in the REMAC Formulary at doses other than those described in the protocols, for specific reasons that must be documented both by the AEMT administering the drug and the On-Line Medical Control Physician prescribing it, e.g., high dose Furosemide for acute pulmonary edema,

Use of drugs contained in the REMAC Formulary for purposes other than those described in the protocols, for specific reasons that must be documented both by the AEMT administering the drug and the On-Line Medical Control Physician prescribing it, e.g., high dose Atropine for organophosphate poisoning.

### COMMUNICATIONS WITH MEDICAL CONTROL FACILITIES

Under no circumstances is an AEMT-P to operate at the scene for more than 20 minutes after making patient contact without attempting to contact Medical Control.

Under no circumstances is an AEMT-CC to operate at the scene for more than 15 minutes after making patient contact without attempting to contact Medical Control.

In the event of failure of voice contact with Medical Control, AEMTs will perform only those procedures which come under Standing Orders and will be required to transport the patient.

### ENDOTRACHEAL DRUG ADMINISTRATION

If no IV or Saline Lock is in place and the patient is intubated, Lidocaine, Epinephrine, Atropine, and Naloxone may be administered via the endotracheal route. In the **adult** patient, the dosage for these medications should be **DOUBLED**, and diluted to 10 ml total drug volume with Normal Saline (0.9 NS). The patient must be hyperventilated prior to drug administration. CPR must be halted while administering any drug via the endotracheal route. After administration the patient should be hyperventilated at the rate of 20-30 breaths/min for 2-3 minutes to facilitate absorption of drug from the lungs; CPR should also be resumed.

## GENERAL OPERATING PROCEDURES

## PHARMACOLOGY TABLE

The following are recommended doses for **adult** patients fourteen (14) years of age and **older** and **under** 40 kg in weight:

Atropine Sulfate	0.02 mg/kg (minimum dose 0.1 mg)
Epinephrine	0.01 mg/kg/dose
Furosemide (Lasix)	1 mg/kg/dose
Lidocaine (bolus)	1.5 mg/kg/dose
Lidocaine (infusion)	1-2 mg/min
Sodium Bicarbonate	1 mEq/kg/dose

**NOTE: THE DOSE OF EPINEPHRINE 1:1,000 SHOULD NOT EXCEED 0.3 MG, SUBCUTANEOUSLY.**

## DRUG ADVISORY GUIDELINES

- Aspirin should **NOT** be administered to patients with known hypersensitivity to aspirin. Gastrointestinal complaints are **NOT** a contraindication to aspirin administration.
- Diphenhydramine Hydrochloride has an atropine-like action and must be used with caution in patients with a history of increased intraocular pressure, hyperthyroidism, cardiovascular disease, and/or hypotension.
- Epinephrine must be used in a 1:1,000 solution instead of a 1:10,000 solution when doubling the initial dose or subsequent doses of standard dose Epinephrine for administration via the endotracheal route in patients 14 years of age or older, then diluted to 10 ml total fluid volume with Normal Saline (0.9 NS).
- Lidocaine must be used with caution in patients 70 years of age or older, and in patients with liver disease, congestive heart failure, and/or hypotension. The initial dose should be 1.5 mg/kg with a single repeated dose of 0.75 mg/kg. The IV drip (maintenance dose) should be reduced to 0.5 mg/min – 2 mg/min.
- Normal Saline (0.9 NS) may be used interchangeably with Ringer's Lactate (RL) for intravenous or intraosseous infusion.
- Diltiazem must be used with caution in patients with liver or kidney disease, congestive heart failure, atrioventricular conduction abnormalities, and/or hypotension. Medical Control should be alerted to these conditions, and the dose should be reduced to **HALF** the normal dose.

## GENERAL OPERATING PROCEDURES

### CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

The administration of controlled substances by AEMTs in the field is permitted only as a Medical Control Option, with the exception of Protocol #513, where administration of a benzodiazapene is permitted under Standing Orders for control of ongoing seizures.

### PEDIATRIC PROTOCOLS

The numbers of encounters with children are far fewer than with adults. These protocols therefore address situations where Advanced Life Support in the field can directly affect a child's survival.

Control of the airway and rapid transport are the underlying principles of the pediatric protocols and best serve the needs of the pediatric patient. Since intravenous or intraosseous access are more difficult in small children, these and other Advanced Life Support interventions are carried out enroute, or during a transport delay, except for special circumstances as clearly noted in the protocols.

#### 1. AIRWAY and VENTILATION

Airway management by mouth-to-mouth-and-nose, mouth-to mask, or bag-valve-mask ventilation should be used in neonates, infants, and children as a first maneuver for providing assisted ventilation. The above will be referred to throughout the pediatric protocols as "Assisted Ventilation." Remember that the correct position to maintain the optimal airway is age-dependent. In pediatric patients with suspected trauma, the airway maneuver of choice is a modified jaw thrust combined with cervical spine stabilization.

Oxygen should always be provided at high concentration in the pediatric patient and should be humidified when feasible. There are **NO CONTRAINDICATIONS** to high concentration oxygen in the pre-hospital setting for the pediatric patient.

#### 2. INTUBATION

When noted in the protocols, or when other maneuvers used to ventilate the pediatric patient are inadequate, Endotracheal Intubation should be attempted. Suspicion of croup/epiglottitis is a contraindication to attempted Endotracheal Intubation.

Children suspected of having croup/epiglottitis may rapidly close off their airways during attempts at Endotracheal Intubation. Children with suspected croup/epiglottitis should be rapidly evacuated to the nearest 911 Ambulance Destination emergency department for definitive airway management. Children in cardiac arrest with upper airway obstruction should have attempts at high-pressure bag-valve-mask ventilation.

#### 3. INTRAVENOUS (IV)/SALINE LOCK OR INTRAOSSEOUS ACCESS

IV/Saline Lock or IO access to be started only enroute or during transport delay. There should be only one attempt of each method in obtaining access to pediatric patients. IV access should always precede IO access. IO access should not to be used in patients greater than six (6) years of age.

## GENERAL OPERATING PROCEDURES

### 4. NASOGASTRIC TUBE/OROGASTRIC TUBE

It may become necessary to pass a Nasogastric (NG) Tube or an Orogastric (OG) Tube in the neonate, infant, or child in order to successfully perform resuscitation. These patients may swallow air or have air forced into their stomach with CPR and Assisted Ventilation. The diaphragm may be forced upward, resulting in decreased tidal volume, if the stomach is not decompressed by an NG or OG tube.

### 5. PEDIATRIC DRUG DOSAGE AND FLUID ADMINISTRATION

For drug dosage and fluid administration, refer to both the Broselow Tape and the Pediatric Schedule in Appendix J.

If no IV/Saline Lock, or IO is in place and the patient is intubated, Lidocaine, Epinephrine, Atropine, and Naloxone may be administered via the Endotracheal Tube. Initial drug dosage of these medications via the Endotracheal Tube is the **SAME** as the IV/Saline Lock or IO dose for all drugs but Epinephrine, which is **TEN TIMES HIGHER** than the initial IV/Saline Lock or IO dose except in

Pediatric Anaphylactic Reaction (Protocol #555) where it remains the same as the initial IV/Saline Lock or IO dose; these medications should be diluted to 3-5 ml total drug volume with Normal Saline (0.9 NS), instilled through a catheter passed beyond the tip of the Endotracheal Tube, and followed by several positive pressure ventilations via a bag-valve device attached to the Endotracheal Tube.

Initial fluid administration should not exceed 20 ml/kg.

### 6. PEDIATRIC VALUES

The Pediatric Schedule in Appendix J provides average weight, respiratory rate, heart rate, and blood pressure for age as well as drug dosages. Patients who are hypotensive according to blood pressure should be examined for other signs of shock to support the diagnosis. Note that it may be technically difficult to obtain a blood pressure in a small or agitated child; in this case, clinical judgment should be used in assessing for hypovolemic shock, especially in a trauma patient.

## GENERAL OPERATING PROCEDURES

### COORDINATION OF PREHOSPITAL RESOURCES PROTOCOL

#### INTRODUCTION:

The purpose of this protocol is to set forth New York City Regional guidelines for the coordination of prehospital resources at the scene when multiple Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Agencies are present. An EMS Agency is any NYS DOH or REMAC of New York City approved ambulance or first response service, including municipal, hospital, volunteer or commercial entities, authorized to provide patient care and/or transport in NYC.

The protocol addresses who has the authority to determine:

- who will provide patient care;
- who will accompany the patient;
- which ambulance(s) will provide transport;
- the appropriate destination(s); and
- the need for additional resources.

#### 1. PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES

**All providers must properly and reasonably identify themselves and their certification levels. The provider must provide his/her name, organization name, and provider number (shield or NYS DOH certification number). Written identification (i.e., patch, agency ID tag, etc.) is preferable to avoid confusion.**

All providers present at an incident must function as part of a response by the EMS Agency with which they are affiliated and remain within their scope of training and practice.

The EMS Agency must be authorized to provide prehospital care within the New York City region and operate under regionally approved protocols specific to the agency's approved level(s) of care.

#### NOTE: RESPONSIBILITY FOR PATIENT CARE

The prehospital emergency care provider with the highest level of certification who first establishes patient contact at the scene assumes responsibility for providing initial patient care. S/he retains responsibility for patient care, until relinquished to a prehospital emergency care provider as determined by patient condition/medical necessity, mutual consent, operational necessity, or patient request.

If an ALS provider assumes patient care responsibility from a BLS provider, the BLS provider should assist in the delivery of patient care as requested until such time as the primary ALS care provider determines that assistance is no longer required.

A BLS provider must relinquish patient care to an ALS provider who requests it.

## GENERAL OPERATING PROCEDURES

In cardiac arrest situations, CFR-D or EMT-B units will be considered a higher level of patient care provider over units not equipped with a defibrillator.

When a patient requires ALS care and is on a BLS ambulance, and an ALS provider is present, the BLS unit shall assist the ALS provider and transport the patient with the ALS provider and equipment as soon as appropriate.

Under no circumstances should patients be transferred between units unnecessarily or transport be delayed.

### 3. COORDINATION OF PREHOSPITAL RESOURCES

The prehospital emergency care provider with the highest level of certification who first establishes patient contact at the scene assumes responsibility for decisions related to coordination of prehospital resources.

Higher level prehospital providers must assume responsibility for coordination of prehospital resources if they assume responsibility for patient care.

Responsibility for coordination of prehospital resources may be relinquished to later arriving prehospital providers based on mutual consent.

When a NYC “911 System” participating EMS Agency is not the first EMS Agency on the scene and is not acting in the role of primary care provider, it shall act as an operational resource for:

Information regarding hospital diversions, specialty referral center bed availability and other specialized resources; and

Incident scene safety (e.g., environmental conditions, crowd/traffic control in the absence of NYPD, potentially dangerous patient or family member to self and/or others).

FDNY shall be responsible for coordination of prehospital resources in situations involving:

- Multiple Casualty Incidents (MCIs);
- Unscheduled MEDEVAC transports;
- Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT) and/or Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) situations which require decontamination;
- Fires/Crimes in progress; or
- Unusual public health or safety emergencies.

At the point that FDNY assumes operational responsibility for coordination of prehospital resources, incident command procedures are in effect, incorporating all participating EMS Agencies and resources into the response, as appropriate.

## GENERAL OPERATING PROCEDURES

### **4. MULTIPLE CASUALTY INCIDENTS (MCIs)**

MCIs are generally defined as five (5) or more patients with the potential need for extraordinary resources. However, the criteria for the definition of MCIs are not primarily dependent upon the number of patients.

The Regional Emergency Medical Services Council of New York City and FDNY should include all EMS Agencies participating in MCIs into MCI planning, and should coordinate training in MCIs for all participating EMS Agencies.

### **5. PATIENT TRANSPORTATION**

The provider who is responsible for patient care will determine who accompanies the patient and, except in MCI's, the appropriate destination, in accordance with state and regional protocol. In all practical circumstances the number of individuals in the patient compartment, excluding the patient, shall not exceed four (4). However, the provider who is responsible for patient care makes the ultimate decision regarding who is in the patient compartment.

### **6. IMPLEMENTATION/EVALUATION**

Each EMS Agency shall develop guidelines, policies and procedures to ensure the implementation of this protocol, including continuing education in the use of the protocol. Complaints shall be first addressed agency to agency, secondly to the Regional EMS Council/REMAC Quality Assurance Committee. Evaluation of the effectiveness of the protocol shall be ongoing as part of each EMS Agency's QA processes and integrated into system-wide QA activities pursuant to Article 30 of the New York State Public Health Law.

## GENERAL OPERATING PROCEDURES

### MUTUAL AID MOBILIZATION PROTOCOL

#### INTRODUCTION:

- The purpose of this protocol is to provide a uniform procedure for the request and utilization of voluntary hospital, volunteer, and proprietary ambulance resources for mutual aid during times when these resources are needed to manage an incident within the New York City region.
- To ensure a reliable and safe response by ambulance resources from New York City EMS Agencies to any incident within New York City.

#### PROTOCOL AUTHORITY:

- New York State Public Health Law.

#### PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES

- Ambulance units or EMS personnel, in accordance with Regional Emergency Medical Services Council of New York City Coordination of Prehospital Resources protocol, will not respond to any incident outside of their community or primary operating territory without a specific request from Fire Department City of New York (FDNY) and/or the NYC Office of Emergency Management (OEM).
- In the event of a major emergency when mutual aid is requested by FDNY and/or OEM, ambulance service participants will at the minimum, staff and field ambulance units to maintain or enhance service to the provider's primary operating territory, and then if possible provide units for Multiple Casualty Incident (MCI) response as follows:
  - Voluntary hospitals – initially contact FDNY Resource Communication Center (RCC) to identify any need for additional 911 units. Ensure all essential and contract services are maintained. Additional units may be made available for mutual aid.
  - Volunteer Services – staff a community based ambulance first, and log on the unit with FDNY RCC. Additional units may be made available for mutual aid.
  - Proprietary Services – ensure all essential and contract services are maintained, and log on with FDNY RCC. Additional units may be made available for mutual aid.
- Ambulance units shall respond to Mobilization Points identified by FDNY and are not to respond directly to any incident scene unless specifically directed to by the MCI Command structure. Ambulance units and/or EMS personnel will be dispatched from Mobilization Points to specific assignments as needed.

## GENERAL OPERATING PROCEDURES

### WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION PROCEDURE

#### INTRODUCTION:

The purpose of this protocol is to set forth New York City Regional guidelines regarding Hazardous Materials and/or Weapons of Mass Destruction (Biological, Nuclear, Incendiary, Chemical, Explosive: B-NICE).

1. The safety of both crew and public is paramount. Do not endanger yourselves or others.
2. Patients must be decontaminated prior to being removed from the scene.
3. EMS personnel shall wear appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), as determined by the Incident Commander.
4. When a situation is identified where either the release of hazardous materials (HAZMAT), or the use of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) are suspected, ambulance units and/or EMS personnel shall:
  - Immediately notify 911 and agency dispatcher. Provide an initial scene survey report.
  - If not exposed or contaminated, immediately withdraw to a safe distance upwind.
  - If exposed or contaminated, isolate the unit and crew, and await decontamination instructions.
  - Operate within the Incident Command System and under FDNY's operational responsibility for the coordination of prehospital resources and patient care.
5. Only those resources specifically designated by the 911 FDNY incident command shall be initially utilized on-scene or within the immediate vicinity of the incident.
6. Ambulances not already on the scene shall report to an established mobilization or staging area as directed.
7. Any non-911 ambulance inadvertently responding to, or "flagged down" for such an event, will upon recognizing the situation as HAZMAT or WMD, immediately withdraw to a safe distance upwind and simultaneously notify 911 and their dispatcher.

## GENERAL OPERATING PROCEDURES

### SEVERE ACUTE RESPIRATORY SYNDROME

In the event that a competent authority determines that SARS or another severe communicable respiratory illness is being transmitted in the New York City region:

1. The safety of both the EMS crew and public is paramount. Do not endanger yourselves or others.
2. EMS personnel shall wear appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
3. If possible, a surgical mask should be placed on the patient to contain droplets during coughing.
4. Oxygen delivery with a non re-breather face mask may be used to provide oxygen support during transport.
5. In addition, **the following shall be implemented:**
  - Administration of all nebulized and endotracheal medications is **suspended**;
  - Endotracheal intubation should be **avoided**, if at all possible – Utilize Bag Valve Mask when assisted ventilation is required.
  - Patients **ONLY** are to be transported in the ambulance; and
  - Healthcare facilities shall be notified **in advance** that they are receiving a patient with suspected SARS or other communicable respiratory illness.

**NOTE: IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS REGIONAL PROTOCOL OUTSIDE THE 911 SYSTEM SHALL BE IN THE FORM OF AN EMERGENCY REMAC ADVISORY DISTRIBUTED BY THE OFFICES OF THE REGIONAL EMS COUNCIL OF NEW YORK CITY.**

**IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS REGIONAL PROTOCOL IN THE 911 SYSTEM SHALL COME ONLY FROM THE FDNY OFFICE OF MEDICAL AFFAIRS THROUGH A CLASS ORDER ISSUED BY THE ON CALL FDNY OMA MEDICAL DIRECTOR THROUGH ON LINE MEDICAL CONTROL (TELEMETRY) OR FDNY EMERGENCY MEDICAL DISPATCH. THE ISSUANCE OF ANY CLASS ORDER SHALL BE CONVEYED TO ALL REGIONAL MEDICAL CONTROL FACILITIES FOR RELAY TO UNITS IN THE FIELD.**