

South Metro Fire Department
Clinical Policies and Procedures

Title: Care at Standby Events

Effective Date: December 15, 2015 Authorized By: Keith Wesley, MD Medical Director

Standard: Patient Care and Transport

Policy: During a Standby event, South Metro Fire personnel will render and document all care provided according to established guidelines.

I. Purpose

This policy provides guidelines for provision and documentation of medical care rendered at events for which SMFD has been requested or contracted in advance to care for event participants, spectators, or the general public.

II. Definitions

A. Standby Event: Any event for which SMFD has been requested or contracted in advance to attend and staff in a medical care capacity.

III. Procedure

A. An appropriate level of assessment, in accordance with HEMT clinical guidelines, will be provided any individual presenting with medical complaints or problems. Documentation of patient encounters associated with a standby event will vary with the categorization of the assessment and care as either, "Minor" or "Advanced."

B. Ambulance Transports from Standby

If any individual is transported by ambulance, the patient care providers will complete a separate patient care report for that patient, with a run number different from that of the standby report.

C. Minor Assessment and Care

The following assessments and treatments, if provided as part of a scheduled standby event, regardless if the patient is later transported by EMS, are examples of assessment and care that will be categorized as "minor":

1. Distribution or application of over the counter medications and pharmaceuticals.
2. Assisting a patient in administering their own routine, scheduled medications.
3. Assessment and care of minor trauma such as wounds or epistaxis.
4. Assessments of the basic vital signs such as blood pressure, heart rate, respiratory rate, level of consciousness, and SP02.
5. Assessment of blood glucose level.
6. Assessment of lung sounds.

7. Assessment and treatment of minor orthopedic injury, including cold or heat therapy, massaging cramps, and taping or elastic bandages for support or compression.

D. Documentation of Minor Assessments and Care

For any minor assessments and care provided, separately list and provide a short summary for each patient encountered in the narrative section of the standby patient care report. A separate patient care report for each minor care patient is not required. If available, include the name and age of each patient and include a list of disposable supplies used.

E. Advanced Assessments and Care

The following assessments and treatments, if provided as part of a standby event, regardless of whether the patient is later transported, are examples of care that will be categorized as “advanced”:

1. Acquiring and analyzing an ECG tracing.
2. Assisting a patient with the operation of their own advanced level medical equipment such as a ventilator, medication pump, or other prescription medical devices.
3. Treating any airway obstruction or acute respiratory distress, including stoma care.
4. Administering oxygen or nebulized medications.
5. Initiating vascular access or administering IV fluids.
6. SMFD patient care providers administering any prescription medications by any route, from SMFD supply or the patient’s own supply that is for the treatment of potentially life-threatening conditions. Examples would include nitroglycerine for chest pain or epinephrine for an allergic reaction.
7. Assessment and care of significant trauma, including wounds or lesions requiring bleeding control, suspected fractures and/or dislocations requiring splinting or immobilizing, or any injury involving a loss of consciousness.

F. Documentation of Advanced Assessments and Care

For any advanced assessment or care provided, and when the patient is not transported by another HEMT/SMFD patient care provider, a separate no transport patient care report is required for that patient. The patient care providers should request additional run numbers for each no transport patient receiving advanced treatments and care.

G. Refusal of Care or Transport at Standby

For standby events where a participant refuses treatment or transport against medical advice, refer to and follow the policy for Refusal of Treatment and Transportation.

Previous Versions: