

HEALTHEAST MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION  
MEDICAL OPERATIONS MANUAL

**CP 9.6 Provider Responsible for Patient Care**

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Title:	Provider Responsible for Patient Care
Effective Date:	April 1, 2015
Authorized By:	Keith Wesley, MD Medical Director
Standard:	Patient Care and Transport
Policy:	Ultimate responsibility for any and all care rendered during a patient encounter will be assumed by the HEMT healthcare provider on-scene with the highest level of certification and credentialing.

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**I. Purpose**

To provide a means for determining chain of command and responsibility for patient care when multiple providers, with varying levels of certification and credentialing, are present.

**II. Definitions**

- A. Certification – Level recognized by the Minnesota EMSRB, i.e. EMT, EMT Advanced, Paramedic
- B. Credentialing – Level recognized by Ambulance Operations and the Office of the Medical Director, For purposes of this policy the only distinction is between BLS versus ALS providers.

**III. Procedure**

- A. Based on initial assessment of the patient, including chief complaint and presenting signs and symptoms, the patient will be triaged into requiring ALS or BLS care.
  - 1. If the BLS provider believes the patient would be better served by an ALS provider, the ALS provider will accept responsibility for the care of the patient.
- B. ALS care shall only be provided by certified paramedics with the appropriate level of credentialing.
  - 1. For example, only a paramedic credentialed to perform intubation may do so.
- C. If, following treatment of an ALS condition, the patient improves but still requires transport; it is acceptable to have a BLS provider assume patient care.
- D. If a patient is triaged as being suitable for BLS care, the patient may be cared for a BLS provider upon agreement with the ALS provider present.
  - 1. If the patient's condition deteriorates at any time, warranting ALS care, the ALS provider shall assume care of the patient.
- E. Regardless of patient presentation and clinical findings, if a patient refuses evaluation, treatment, and/or transport, it is the responsibility of the HEMT provider with the highest level of certification to obtain informed refusal and signature.
  - 1. In the event of a multiple patient encounter (MVA, etc.), refusals may be obtained by a BLS provider, however the ALS provider must be provided an accurate verbal report of the BLS provider's findings and recommendations.
- F. In the event that consensus on the appropriate level of care for a patient cannot be reached by the providers present, the ALS provider will accept responsibility for care of the patient and a Supervisor will be contacted for resolution following completion of the call.

Previous Versions: 2016.1