

SECTION: G-8

TITLE: Special Needs Population

Date: October 15, 2014

GENERAL COMMENTS:

In certain patient populations there may (in rare instances) arise the need to medications that fall beyond the standard practice guidelines of the paramedic scope of practice.

These are considered time sensitive interventions and may need to be provided to the patient to prevent significant morbidity or mortality.

To be considered, the patient must have an established diagnosis and care plan as directed by their primary (or specialist) physician.

Medications need to be prescribed to that patient specifically and cannot be interchanged with other patients or family members.

BLS-Specific Care See Adult/Pediatric General Medical Care Protocol M1/PM1 (or other applicable protocol)

ILS-Specific Care See Adult/Pediatric General Medical Care Protocol M1/PM1 (or other applicable protocol)

ALS-Specific Care See Adult/Pediatric General Medical Care Protocol M1/PM1 (or other applicable protocol)

- Identify the specific condition the patient is presenting with and confirm with patient, family members or primary prescribing physician if possible.
- Ask for documentation to support condition and use of specific therapies and bring all supporting documentation and medications with patient for transport.
- Ensure that presenting complaint is congruent with indicated therapy.
- If assisting with medication:
 - Identify that medication is specific to patient
 - Ensure dose and route of administration of medication by prescription or care plan
 - Check expiration dates on any and all medications and ask about special handling instructions and that medications have been properly stored and cared for
 - Discuss risks and alternatives (i.e. transport with medications to be given in receiving ER versus prehospital administration)
 - Document consent with witness
 - Administer medications per patient specific protocols exactly as prescribed
 - Monitor for any medication reaction or hypersensitivity response
 - Expedite transport to closest appropriate facility

Protocol

G-8

SPECIAL NEEDS POULATION

PHYSICIAN PEARLS:

This protocol is designed for a very small subset of patient populations that may have time sensitive emergencies in which medications may avoid unnecessary complications.

Patients with such conditions have identified themselves with specific diagnoses and have written confirmations of care plans prior to arrival.

Special needs populations may also suffer from other common medical/traumatic emergencies and general protocols should be followed in general. If the practitioner is going to provide these adjunctive therapies, the chief complaint should be confirmed to be reasonably coupled to the proposed therapy. (i.e. a hemophilia patient with an asthma exacerbation may not be in need of immediate factor VII/IX administration)

If information is lacking or there is question regarding the proposed therapy, contact the receiving hospital for medical control or the patient's personal physician if the contact is available for guidance.

If possible, the patient should be taken to the hospital where they receive their primary specialty care for continuity.