

SECTION: G-2

TITLE: Medical Direction

REVISED: October 27, 2010

These standing written orders are written physician orders giving field personnel the authority to implement procedures and administer designated medications.

- A. These standing written orders are to be used only by field personnel operating under a medical control recognized by the Idaho State Board of Medicine.
- B. These standing written orders may be implemented prior to the establishment of direct communication with medical control. Direct communication with medical control shall be established as soon as feasible in life-threatening situations.
- C. Direct communication with medical control shall be established prior to the release of any patient in the following categories:
 - Those who have received ALS care in the field prior to release and do not fall under specific treat-and-release protocols
 - Where questions over disposition exist
 - As mandated for specific situations and protocols
- D. The type of medical control shall be documented when ALS care is provided.
- E. No procedure or medication shall be used without the proper equipment or beyond the training, capabilities, or certification level of the EMS provider.

Procedures and medications that are **bold and underlined** normally require a direct order from an acceptable medical control physician (see permissible exceptions below). An acceptable medical control physician includes either the Emergency Department physician at the receiving hospital or if communication with the receiving medical control physician is delayed (within two to three minutes), personnel may contact the Emergency Department physician at any one of the other acceptable hospitals.

- F. **When a receiving hospital has not been established, on-line medical control shall be the nearest receiving facility.**

EXCEPTION: If attempts to establish communication with medical control fail, and a patient is at high risk for mortality or increased morbidity, or if the delay anticipated in establishing communication with medical control may result in mortality or increased morbidity, procedures and/or medications normally restricted to direct medical order may be performed or administered without the direct order of a medical control physician. Communications with medical control shall be established as soon as possible. The reasons for the decision to institute treatment shall be clearly documented both in the chart and on the SWO deviation form.

EXCEPTION: As an alternative, **Alternative medical direction/Physician on scene:** Occasionally, a physician other than an approved medical control physician may provide or direct patient care. In those situations the following shall apply:

- When a licensed Idaho physician is on location and requests a deviation from the SWOs, **the physician must accept responsibility for patient care including attending the patient during transport.** While the provider may assist the physician in procedures, the provider shall not exceed his or her scope of practice in performing procedures.
- If a licensed Idaho physician is directing patient care on location but will not accept responsibility for patient care, **or** a licensed Idaho physician is directing patient care by telephone and requests a deviation from the SWOs, the following shall apply:
 - The physician must be an Idaho-licensed M.D. or D.O. with proper identification or personally known to the provider
 - Personnel will request that the physician call the on-line medical control physician for consultation
 - Personnel will establish contact with the medical control physician to confirm orders
 - Document name of physician/provider on scene and who provided care

G. In all cases of patient transport, including those where direct medical control is not required, routine contact with the receiving hospital will be made as soon as feasible.