

HOUSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT
SUBJECT : PATIENT CARE GUIDELINES AND STANDING ORDERS
FOR BLS AND ALS UNITS

VOLUME NO. III
REFERENCE NO. III-01

COMMAND: EMS
SECTIONS 1.00 - 9.06

1.00 PURPOSE

- 1.01 To effectively manage, in a uniform manner, the patient care rendered in the field by the members of the Houston Fire Department (HFD).
- 1.02 To provide excellent service to residents of and visitors to the City of Houston.
- 1.03 To offer emergency medical care and transportation, with limited exceptions, for all persons for whom EMS is requested.

2.00 OBJECTIVES

- 2.01 To provide an effective and structured means of delivering patient care to the citizens and visitors of Houston via Basic Life Support (BLS) and Advanced Life Support (ALS) personnel.
- 2.02 To maintain continuity and consistency of patient care given by all members of the HFD.
- 2.03 To provide the HFD Basic Life Support and Advanced Life Support Providers with a reference for review of all BLS and ALS skills, medications and treatments.
- 2.04 To provide guidelines and standing orders to guide HFD personnel as they assist patients in making a decision regarding ambulance transportation.
- 2.05 To provide procedures for situations when it appears to be necessary to transport patients to a medical facility, but patients are unable to decide for themselves.
- 2.06 To transport patients to the most accessible medical facility, which is staffed, equipped, and prepared to administer emergency care appropriate to the needs of the patient.
- 2.07 To provide procedures to accommodate a hospital's request to divert patients from their emergency departments that are temporarily not able to care for additional patients.
- 2.08 To ensure that ambulances are not unreasonably removed from their area of primary response when transporting a patient to a medical facility.