

4.00 SCOPE

- 4.01 These guidelines apply to all members of the Houston Fire Department while on duty. Each member shall perform to his/her level of authorization and credentialing within the HFD system.
- 4.02 HFD members possessing a Texas Department of State Health Services (TDSHS) Paramedic certification or licensure, credentialed by the EMS Physician Director, and assigned for the purpose of functioning as a paramedic on an ambulance, squad, engine and/or ladder are authorized to provide ALS care for patients under these guidelines through the off-line Delegated Practice of Medicine of the Physician Director of EMS only while on-duty with the HFD. Paramedics are authorized to provide ALS care beyond these guidelines only through the On-line Delegated Practice of Medicine of the authorized on-line physician.
- 4.03 HFD members possessing a Texas Department of State Health Services EMT, EMT-I or Paramedic certification or licensure and are assigned for the purpose of functioning as an EMT are to provide care as described in these guidelines at the EMT level only. EMT's are authorized to provide BLS care beyond these guidelines only through the On-line Delegated Practice of Medicine of the authorized on-line physician.
- 4.04 HFD members **not** possessing Texas Department of State Health Services EMS certification or licensure, but trained by the department as First Responders, are to provide care as described in these guidelines at the BLS level.

5.00 RESPONSIBILITIES

- 5.01 Patient Care Guidelines and Standing Orders
- A. Specific for medical and traumatic injury patients as well as cardiac arrest patients. Each describes the care to be provided by HFD personnel at the BLS and ALS levels. HFD personnel are to review and be familiar with these guidelines.
 - B. BLS unit personnel are to provide care within their scope of practice and under authorization by the Medical Director.
- 5.02 Members are expected to provide care and transportation in keeping with departmental policies, procedures, patient care guidelines and the local standard of care.
- 5.03 Station Captains are responsible for ensuring that all members under their command are familiar with the contents of this guideline.
- 5.04 Station Captains shall ensure that a copy of this guideline, signed by the Physician Director, is carried on all EMS Apparatus and EMS vehicles under their command in compliance with the EMS Act of the State of Texas.
- 5.05 All personnel and/or representatives of the Houston Fire Department will be responsible for adhering to the guidelines outlined in this document.
- 5.06 All personnel are to operate and conduct themselves in the best interest of the public.
- 5.07 The highest ranking member on each apparatus is to ensure the completion and electronic posting of the patient care record in the PCR software for their apparatus. In addition, members shall fully document all aspects of patient care and patient care decisions as per 6.06 Documentation.