

# Introduction

The Bernalillo County EMS Protocols covers EMS Providers throughout the county, including Albuquerque Fire Rescue, Bernalillo County Fire Department, and Albuquerque Ambulance. The mission of the Bernalillo County EMS System is to provide high quality Emergency Medical Services with cutting edge technology and the most recent practices and standards of the EMS community. This document is a tool to be used by the pre-hospital providers that operate in the Bernalillo County system. All providers that utilize this document must understand that these guidelines are ever evolving and influence for change comes from the street providers, Paramedics and EMT's. If an individual provider or service would like to alter verbiage in this document, submit changes here or below. Suggestions will be reviewed by the editor and distributed to the Provider Advisory Committee and make recommendations/ requests to the Medical Control Board. The Medical Control Board is a board of Physicians that represent each hospital in the Bernalillo County system and are responsible for EMS protocols in Bernalillo County. Changes brought forth by EMS providers, agencies, and MCB board members will be evaluated, adapted if necessary, and voted on for approval. If changes are deemed by the Medical Control Board of Physicians to be medically accurate and rooted in evidence based medicine and common EMS practices nationwide, then alterations to the document can occur. The MCB can make changes to the document at any time. Every attempt has been made to reflect sound medical guidelines based on currently accepted standards of care for out of hospital medicine. Despite best efforts, these guidelines may contain typographical errors or omissions. No guideline can account for every clinical scenario encountered, and the individual medical directors and MCB recognize in rare circumstances deviation from these guidelines may be necessary in the patient's best interest. Variance from the guidelines should always be done with the patient's best interest in mind with documented clinical reasoning and judgment. All variance from guidelines should be documented and submitted to each individual program QA/QI department and medical director.

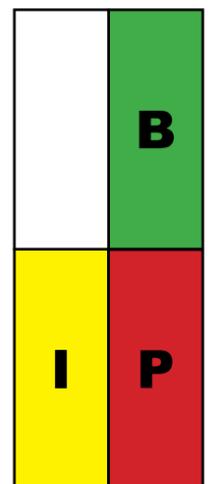
## Guideline Key

Boxes that are clear describe general information applicable to all certification levels

Boxes colored green describe actions applicable to all certification levels.

Boxes colored yellow describe actions applicable for intermediate level or higher

Boxes colored red describe actions applicable at the paramedic level.



The guidelines are presented in an algorithm format. An algorithm is intended to reflect real-life decision points visually. An algorithm has certain limitations, and not every clinical scenario can be represented. Although the algorithm implies a specific sequence of actions, it may often be necessary to provide care out of sequence from that described in the algorithm if dictated by clinical needs. An algorithm provides decision-making support, but need not be rigidly adhered to and is no substitute for sound clinical judgment.

**Unless otherwise specified, guidelines are applicable to both adult and pediatrics. Specific medication dosing for pediatrics are available on the hyperlink to the formulary pages.**