

Jackson County Medical Control Authority
Community Paramedicine Protocols
ELEVATED BLOOD PRESSURE

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Elevated Blood Pressure

Indications: This protocol provides general guidance for the evaluation of patients with the complaint of elevated blood pressure under the Community Paramedicine Program. The CPU will respond to a residence on request from the primary care provider, on request by the patient through 911 triage or on referral from ALS 911 response. The CP will follow guidelines outlined by the primary care providers or on-line medical direction orders.

Purpose: To assess the patient with elevated blood pressure and differentiate between the patient who can be treated supportively vs. those who will require ED evaluation.

CPU Directives:

1. Follow **General Protocol for CPU Patient Assessments**.
2. Obtain and review patient health history and primary care provider's orders prior to evaluation when available.
3. Obtain manual and automated vital sign readings and obtain patient hypertensive medication prescription and usage.
4. Determine whether the patient has additional symptoms which may be related to the elevated blood pressure such as: chest pain, shortness of breath, other pain, headache or neurologic symptoms. Symptomatic patients should be considered for transport to the ED for evaluation.
5. Asymptomatic hypertensive patients are appropriate for home treatment and close follow up. Blood pressures with systolic below 220 and diastolic below 120 may be appropriate for home treatment.
6. Contact the PCP or on-line medical direction per the **General Protocol for CPU Patient Assessments**. Provide patient report and discuss treatment and continuity plans.
7. Continue treatment and follow the **General Protocol for CPU Patient Assessments** until a disposition is determined and continuity plan completed.