

MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION

PURPOSE

During EMS responses personnel routinely administer medications to patients with a wide range of needs due to a wide range of clinical conditions. An error associated with the administration of medications is a concern throughout the medical establishment. Therefore, in order to reduce and/or eliminate the potential for medication errors, it is important that the "8 Rights" of Medication Administration be observed during these instances.

APPLICATION

EMS providers preparing to administer medications in the out of hospital setting should review and/or recite the "8 Rights" prior to administering any medication to a patient. While all 8 elements are important, In the out of hospital setting, special attention should be paid to the right medication, right dose, and right route - as these are frequently the areas of error in the EMS environment. In addition, EMS providers should ensure the patient is informed as to what medications they are receiving, and afford an opportunity for the patient to refuse. Lastly, documentation is essential so that medications administered in the out of hospital setting become part of the patient's clinical medical record. By following the "8 Rights" of medication administration, EMS providers will significantly decrease the potential and number of errors associated with medication administration.

DEFINITIONS

- 1) ***Medication:*** Any pharmacological intervention used to treat, prevent, or reduce signs and symptoms of diseases, disorders, and/or traumatic injuries. Medication administration routes include the following: Intramuscular, Intravenous, Intraosseous, Oral, Buccal, Rectal, Inhaled, and Subcutaneous.

PROCEDURE

- Prior to the administration of any medication ensure the following are reviewed and/or verbalized by at least **two providers** – if available (checked, and double checked):
 - 8 Rights of Medication Administration**
 - Right Patient
 - Right Dose
 - Right Medication
 - Right Route
 - Right Time
 - Right Documentation
 - Right to Know About the Medication
 - Right to Refuse the Medication
- Following administration of controlled medications, EMS personnel shall follow their individual department's policy on the correct accounting, disposal, and restocking of these medications.