

# Section 1-1

**SECTION:** Introduction

**PROTOCOL TITLE:** Purpose and Use

**REVISED:** 5/2018

## PURPOSE AND USE

The purpose of these protocols is to establish guidelines between EMS administration, the EMS provider and medical direction for the management, treatment and transport of specific medical emergencies.

These guidelines are intended to assist in achieving excellent, consistent prehospital care for patients. The following guidelines are not intended to provide a solution to every problem which may arise. The guidelines set forth are not designed nor intended to limit the EMS provider in the exercise of good judgment or initiative in taking reasonable action in extraordinary circumstances. If **MC** is listed in the grid for the intervention, the provider must call **medical control** to obtain permission for the intervention.

Prehospital care is a shared responsibility between the operational medical director, online medical control physician, and the EMS provider. The services which EMS providers are authorized to perform pursuant to the Virginia Emergency Medical Services Regulations shall be performed by the EMS provider only pursuant to the written or verbal authorization of the operational medical director or online physician medical control. If **MC** is listed in the grid for the intervention, the provider must call **medical control** to obtain permission for the intervention.

Our objective is not only to serve the citizens and residents of our region, but also to give them our best possible prehospital care. We will measure up to the high standard required of emergency medical services, only by coordinating our operations, working together, and maintaining a high degree of professionalism.

The following levels of EMS certification are recognized in ODEMSA. Both the traditional levels and the new scope of practice levels are listed. EMS provider levels are referenced in the protocols based on the associated level of certification recognized by the Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services.

| Level                       | Designation |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| First Responder / EMR       | <b>EMR</b>  |
| EMT - Basic / EMT           | <b>EMT</b>  |
| EMT - Enhanced / AEMT       | <b>A</b>    |
| EMT - Intermediate          | <b>I</b>    |
| EMT - Paramedic / Paramedic | <b>P</b>    |

# Section

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