Health Insurance Portability Accountability Act (HIPAA)

Purpose: To provide a guideline for sharing protected health information (PHI) with entities that function in the capacity of a life support agency.

To promote and improve overall patient care and pre-hospital EMS activities, Medical Control Authorities shall establish patient care quality improvement programs. Patient care information will be utilized in these programs for quality improvement activities only and shall conform to all state and federal patient confidentiality and privacy laws.

Policy: Medical Control Authorities and their Professional Standards Review Organization (QI Committee) will collect patient care information through retrospective review of patient care records generated and supplied by all life support agencies.

Patient care records will be completed on all patients where any type of care or assessment has occurred.

Each responding pre-hospital care provider shall complete Medical Control approved documentation, a copy of which may be forwarded to Medical Control Authority for quality improvement purposes.

The Medical Control Authorities shall hold all patient care information in strictest confidence.

Quality Improvement within the Medical Control Authority shall be conducted under the Professional Standards Review Organization, which may be comprised of representatives from various pre hospital agencies. No patient identifiers will be used or shared during reporting of any retrospective QI reviews of patient care.

Patient outcomes may be tracked by pre hospital agencies and/or Medical Control Authorities and may be shared among pre hospital agencies, including Medical First Response agencies, responsible for patient care. No patient identifiers will be used or shared during reporting.

Patient care audits may occur as part of the QI process. No patient identifiers will be used or shared during reporting. Aggregate data will be shared with pre hospital agencies using no patient identifiers. This data will be used for education, remediation and overall improvement of system processes.