

ETHICAL GUIDELINES FOR EMS

Overview

Emergencies and disasters may require Emergency Medical Services (EMS) providers to prioritize access to services for those patients most likely to benefit from evaluation and treatment. *The Michigan Guidelines for Implementation of Crisis Standards of Care and Ethical Allocation of Scarce Medical Resources and Services During Emergencies and Disasters* offers guidance for EMS systems that may need to alter standards of care during an emergency or disaster, including the adoption of patient triage and service protocols. The Medical Control Authority (MCA) is the local authority when determining the EMS standard of care.

EMS Ethical Principles:

- Beneficence
- Fairness
- Equity
- Transparency
- Accountability
- Veracity
- Trust
- Social worth



EMS systems have the following ethical duties:

1. Respond with compassion and respect for human dignity, unrestricted by consideration of nationality, race, creed, color, or status.
2. Avoid judgement of the merits of the patient's request for service, nor allow the patient's socioeconomic status to influence care. EMS also has a duty to provide medically acceptable care to all, consistent with the standards of the EMS system.
3. Provide care to the community across the spectrum of EMS services from the moment 911 is called, through dispatch, treatment, transport, and release.

EMS Code of Ethics:

<https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/inside-mdhhs/legislationpolicy/ems/education-information/ems-code-of-ethics>

Ethical Guidance Training

Training is available on MI-TRAIN, Course ID # 1105145.

[Michigan.gov/CrisisStandardsofCare](https://www.michigan.gov/CrisisStandardsofCare)

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