

**PATIENT CARE PROCEDURE #6
EMS/MEDICAL CONTROL – COMMUNICATIONS**

I. STANDARD:

1. *Communications between prehospital personnel and receiving facilities will utilize the most effective communications to expedite patient information exchange.*

II. PURPOSE:

1. To define methods of expedient communications between prehospital personnel and receiving facilities.

III. PROCEDURE:

1. The preferred communications method should be direct between an EMS prehospital provider and the facility. An alternative method of communications should be addressed in County Operating Procedures.
2. Local Medical Program Director, county councils and communications centers will be responsible for establishing communications procedures between the prehospital provider(s) and the facility (ies).
3. The provider agencies will maintain communications equipment and training needed to communicate in accordance with WAC.
4. Problems with communications affecting patient care will be reviewed by the provider agency, county council, MPD, communications center, and if necessary report to the Regional Communications Committee for review.
5. **All patient information communicated between agencies shall be in compliance with current HIPAA standards.**

DEFINITION

V. QUALITY IMPROVEMENT:

The East Region Prehospital & Transportation Committee will review this PCP upon receipt of suggested modifications from a local provider, the East Region QI Committee, the Department of Health, or any other entity suggesting modifications to the document, at least biennially.

Adopted Regional Council	6/12/96
Approved DOH	7/16/96
Implemented	7/31/96
Reviewed ER Prehospital & Transportation Committee	1/13/99 2/10/99 3/10/99
Final Review PH	9/8/99
Adopted Regional Council	10/13/99
Approved DOH	5/17/00
Implemented	6/00
Reviewed ER Prehospital & Transportation Committee	5/8/02
Adopted by Regional Council	8/21/02
Approved by DOH	10/28/02
Reviewed by PH	3/10/04
Adopted Regional Council	4/14/04

Approved DOH	2/2005
Implemented	3/2005
Reviewed by PH	11.9.05
Reviewed by Chairs & Exec.	11.9.05
Posted on East Region website	9/06
Submitted to DOH for approval	10.04.06
Approved by Steering Committee	3.21.2007

Approved