

Methodist Health Services Corporation UnityPoint Health- Proctor	Page # 1 of 3	Section:	Policy #: 21
	Approved by:		Date: 6/2017 Review by: 6/2018
	Supersedes: Date Revised: 6/2017		
	Primary Responsible Parties: Dr. Ashley N. Huff Secondary Responsible Parties:		
	Joint Commission Standard:		
SUBJECT: PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT & CODE OF ETHICS			

- I. POLICY:  
Professional Conduct & Code of Ethics
- II. PURPOSE AND STANDARD:  
To define the profession conduct and code of ethics expected of all UnityPoint Health EMS System providers.
- III. POLICY SCOPE: Departmental
- IV. GENERAL INFORMATION:

A. Professional Conduct

*The following are guidelines for interaction with patients, other caregivers and the community:*

1. **Respect for Human Dignity** – Respect all patients regardless of socio-economic status, financial status or background. Dignity includes greeting, conversing, respectful mannerisms, and protecting physical privacy.
2. **Maintain Confidentiality** – Respect every person’s right to privacy. Sensitive information regarding a patient’s condition or history should only be provided to medical personnel with an immediate need-to-know. Providers are expected to know HIPAA guidelines and abide by HIPAA regulations in their professional practice. Sensitive information regarding our profession may only be provided to those with a right to know.
3. **Professional Competency** – Provide the patient with the best possible care by continuously improving your understanding of the profession and maintaining continuing education and required certifications. Protect the patient from incompetent care by knowing the standard of care and being able to identify those who do not.

4. **Safety Awareness & Practice** – Protect the health and well-being of the patient, yourself, your co-workers and the community by constantly following safety guidelines, principles and practices.
5. **Accountability for Your Actions** – Act within your training, know your limitations, and accept responsibility for both satisfactory and unsatisfactory actions.
6. **Loyalty & Cooperation** – Demonstrate devotion by maintaining confidentiality, assisting in improving morale and not publicly criticizing.
7. **Personal Conduct** – Demonstrate professionalism by maintaining high moral, ethical and grooming standards. Do not participate in behavior that would discredit you, your co-workers and the profession.

B. Code of Ethics (Applies to ALL Prehospital providers)

Professional status as an Emergency Medical Technician is maintained and enriched by the willingness of the individual practitioner to accept and fulfill obligations to society, other medical professionals, and the profession of Emergency Medical Technician.

1. As an Emergency Medical Technician, I solemnly pledge myself to the following code of professional ethics:
  - a. A fundamental responsibility of the EMT is to conserve life, to alleviate suffering, to promote health, to do no harm, and to encourage the quality and equal availability of emergency medical care.
  - b. The EMT provides services based on human need, with respect for human dignity, unrestricted by consideration of nationality, race, creed, color or status.
  - c. The EMT does not use professional knowledge and skills in any enterprise detrimental to the public well-being.
  - d. The EMT respects and holds in confidence all information of a confidential nature obtained in the course of professional work unless required by law to divulge such information.
  - e. The EMT, as a citizen, understands and upholds the law and performs the duties of citizenship; as a professional, the EMT has the never-ending responsibility to work with concerned citizens and other healthcare professionals in promoting a high standard of emergency medical care to all people.
  - f. The EMT shall maintain professional competence and demonstrate concern for the competence of other members of the EMS healthcare team.
  - g. An EMT assumes responsibility in defining and upholding standards of professional practice and education.
  - h. The EMT assumes responsibility for individual professional actions and judgment, both in all aspects of emergency functions, and knows and upholds the laws which affect the practice of the EMT.
  - i. An EMT has the responsibility to be aware of and participate in matters of legislation affecting the EMS System.

- j. The EMT, or groups of EMTs, who advertise professional service, does so in conformity with the dignity of the profession.
  - k. The EMT has an obligation to protect the public by not delegating to a person less qualified, any service which requires the professional competence of an EMT.
  - l. The EMT will work harmoniously with and sustain confidence in EMT associates, the nurses, the physicians, and other members of the EMS healthcare team.
  - m. The EMT refuses to participate in unethical procedures and assumes responsibility to expose incompetence or unethical conduct of others to the appropriate authority in a proper and professional manner.
2. The following are examples of conduct during the provision of patient care and/or transport may result in disciplinary action:
- a. Theft or inappropriate removal or possession of property.
  - b. Falsification of personal or hospital records
  - c. Functioning under the influence of alcohol, illegal drugs, or medications which may impair judgement or capability.
  - d. Possession, distribution, sale, transfer, or use of alcohol or illegal drugs.
  - e. Fighting or threatening violence
  - f. Negligence or improper conduct leading to damage of hospital materials or property
  - g. Violation of the smoke free environments
  - h. Insubordination or other disrespectful conduct
  - i. Violation of safety or health rules
  - j. Sexual or other unlawful or unwelcome harassment
  - k. Possession of dangerous or unauthorized materials, such as explosives or firearms
  - l. Unauthorized use of hospital telephones, mail system, computer systems or other equipment
  - m. Unauthorized access and/or disclosure of confidential information
  - n. Unsatisfactory performance or conduct