

Methodist Health Services Corporation UnityPoint Health-Proctor	Page # 1 of 2	Section:	Policy #: 7
	Approved by:		Date: 6/2017 Review by: 6/2018
	Supersedes: Date Revised: 6/17		
	Primary Responsible Parties: Dr. Ashley N. Huff Secondary Responsible Parties:		
	Joint Commission Standard:		
SUBJECT: EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION REGISTERED NURSE (ECRN)			

I. POLICY:

The UnityPoint Health EMS System will train ECRNs to answer radio calls at the Resource Hospital base station that do not require online medical control by a physician.

II. PURPOSE AND STANDARD:

To define the scope of practice, limitations, and qualifications of the ECRN to function in the UnityPoint Health EMS System as prescribed by Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH).

III. GENERAL INFORMATION:

A. Qualifications:

1. Valid license in the state of Illinois as a registered professional nurse
2. Current American Heart Association CPR and ACLS (Advanced Cardiac Life Support) certifications
3. Either a current AHA PALS (Pediatric Advanced Life Support), or ENPC (Emergency Nursing Pediatric Course) certifications
4. Current TNCC (Trauma Nurse Core Course), PHTLS (Prehospital Trauma Life Support) or ITLS (International Trauma Life Support) certifications; TNS (Trauma Nurse Specialist) is highly recommended, but not required
5. Successful completion of EMS system/state approved ECRN course as prescribed by IDPH and by the EMS Medical Director of UnityPoint Health EMS System
6. Current licensure by IDPH for ECRN
7. Completion of all system entry requirements as prescribed by the EMS Medical Director of UnityPoint Health EMS System

B. Scope of Practice:

Monitor telecommunications from and give voice orders to EMS personnel, under the authority of the medical director and in accordance with UnityPoint Health EMS System SMOs and system policies

C. Limitations:

There are several instances for which a licensed ECRN should request an approved base station emergency department physician's assistance. They include, but not limited to:

1. Scene response where aeromedical transport had been requested by EMS
2. Patients requiring level I or level II trauma care, but need to come to the closest hospital for airway management
3. Traumatic arrest situations
4. Any ambulance run not covered by UnityPoint Health EMS System SMOs where base station physician discretion is deemed appropriate
5. Any ambulance run that is beyond the scope of practice as stated in the SMOs, or if EMS requests to speak directly to a physician
6. Patient care involving complex medicolegal issues such as DNR or family request to bypass closest facility
7. A request for cease efforts
8. Any situation where there is a registered nurse or physician providing on-scene care
9. If there is a disagreement regarding the care of the patient

D. Limitations Requiring Notification of the EMS Office and EMS Medical Director:

There are several instances for which a licensed ECRN should request an approved base station emergency department physician's assistance and also notify the EMS Office and EMS Medical Director. They include, but not limited to:

1. Disaster situations occurring that may involve UnityPoint Health Methodist, UnityPoint Health Proctor, UnityPoint Health Pekin, and OSF Saint Francis Medical Center
2. Multiple Casualty Incidents (MCI) where any hospital will receive more than one victim from the same incident