



CONCEPT FOR CONSIDERATION

Board Meeting Date: Wednesday, March 26, 2014

Subject: Family-Centered Care

CFC#: 0314-01

Committee/Task Force: EMS for Children Advisory Committee

Concept Statement

The PEHSC Board of Directors requests that the Pennsylvania Department of Health consider promoting and incorporating family-centered care during prehospital and interfacility ambulance transports in the Commonwealth EMS System.

Rationale:

Family presence during medical treatment, otherwise known as family-centered care, has been a growing national initiative since the beginning of this millennium. For prehospital medical providers, multiple documents^{1,2} and guidelines³ have been published at a national level promoting the inclusion of a patient's family during EMS treatment and transport. The benefits of family-centered care are evidence-based and far reaching, and include fewer errors in medical treatment and medication administration, better patient medical history available to EMS providers, and a reduction in risk and liability complaints. Simply having a patient's family present and involved in their medical care can improve both medical outcomes and patient satisfaction.

Committee Comments:

The members of the EMS for Children Advisory Committee strongly support the implementation of family-centered care. The Committee feels that family-centered care guidelines should be incorporated into the Pennsylvania Statewide EMS Protocols, and should include guidance for situations when it is not appropriate to transport a patient's family with the patient. The Committee stresses that the first priority remains the safety of the EMS provider and no undue risks should be taken in order to accommodate family members. Additionally, the Committee emphasizes the need to educate EMS providers regarding the importance and benefits of family presence for the care of a patient.

Future Considerations:

Should this concept be accepted by the Department, the Pennsylvania EMS for Children Advisory Committee offers its full support to assist in the implementation of family-centered care in the Commonwealth EMS System.

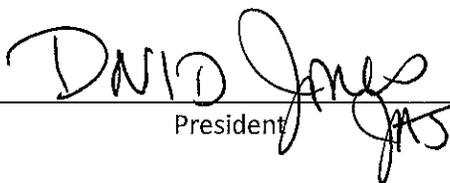
Specifically, the following topics would need to be addressed:

- Development of guidelines for addition to protocols
- Creation of an education program for EMS providers and agencies
- Availability of sample guidelines that can be included in an EMS agency's standard operating guidelines

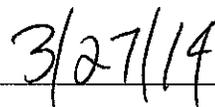
Board of Directors Comments:

The Board fully supported the concept, which passed unanimously with no further discussion.

Signed: _____


President

Date: _____



1. Johnson, B.H.; Thomas, J.; and Williams, K. (2001). *Working with Families to Enhance Emergency Medical Services for Children*. Washington, DC: Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) National Resource Center.
2. Guzzetta, C.E.; Clark, A.P.; and Wright, J.L. (March 2006). *Family Presence in Emergency Medical Services for Children*. *Clinical Pediatric Emergency Medicine*, 7(1), p. 15-24.
3. National Association of EMTs (2000). *Guidelines for Providing Family-Centered Prehospital Care*. Washington, D.C.: National Association of EMTs.