



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
FIRE/EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDER

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| General Order Number: 05-04 | Effective Date: January 2010 |
| Division: Emergency Medical | |
| Chapter: Adult Health Care Referral Guidelines | |
| By Order of the Fire Chief: Marc S. Bashoor | Revision Date: N/A |

POLICY

This General Order establishes a method by which all personnel may refer patients requesting frequent emergency care for recurrent, potentially treatable medical conditions, to an agency within the Prince George's County Government better suited to assist such patients with obtaining appropriate treatment and follow-up care.

As emergency care providers, we are afforded the unique opportunity to administer care to patients in their home environment. By doing so, we can often detect problems unknown to other members of the medical community, which may have a major impact on the patient's care and well being.

DEFINITIONS

N/A

PROCEDURES / RESPONSIBILITIES

The Prince George's County Adult Health Services Home Health Agency is a branch of the Prince George's County Health Department. As a community service, they provide a variety of home health care functions to the adult population (age 18 and over). Their services include home visits, nursing clinics for senior citizens, high blood pressure and health screening. These services are provided to the Prince George's County residents regardless of their ability to pay.

Personnel should utilize this resource whenever they believe a problem may exist with home health care practices, particularly when this is the reason for their emergency assistance request. For example:

- Numerous calls over a period of time involving the same complaint.
- Epileptics with recurrent seizures, possibly due to inappropriate health practices.
- Diabetics who continually experience diabetic emergencies, possibly due to inadequate or inappropriate health practices.

Whenever practical, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel should discuss the availability of Adult Health Services with the patient or patient's family. The EMS Duty Officer or appropriate station officer should then be notified and presented with all the pertinent facts surrounding the case. Once this information is gathered, one of these supervisors should contact Adult Protective Services by calling (301) 808-5624 to request an adult health home evaluation with an explanation as to why there is a need for this course of action.

The intake worker will then notify the patient that such a request has been made and set up an appointment to meet with the patient.



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The Adult Health Care Agency may then either provide the proper services themselves or refer those needing services, which they cannot afford, to the appropriate County agencies.

REFERENCES

Interagency Coordination

Adult Health Care Agency

Prince George's County Health Department

FORMS / ATTACHMENTS

N/A