

**Hennepin County EMS System**  
**Standards for Medical Control Hospitals and Physicians**  
**Approved by the Hennepin County EMS Council, April 14, 2016**

**I. Standards for Medical Control Hospitals:**

- A. Must be located within Hennepin County or, if located outside of Hennepin County, application for medical control status must be requested on the hospital's behalf by an ambulance service with a primary service area within Hennepin County.
- B. Must have an Emergency Department staffed with an adequate number of system-certified, licensed physicians (see physician standards below) available to provide on-line medical control to paramedics 24 hours a day. Must comply with specified reporting to MRCC and Hennepin County Public Health when a medical control physician is not available.
- C. Must comply with all Hennepin County EMS System communications standards.
- D. Must maintain functional 800 MHz EMS radio operability 24 hours a day.
- E. Must be willing to provide medical control to ambulances whenever the hospital receiving the patient is not able to provide medical control.
- F. Must assume responsibility for the cost of developing, implementing, and maintaining radio medical control capabilities within the hospital that conform to the provisions of this policy.
- G. Must provide education of medical control physicians using materials developed by Hennepin County Public Health.

**II. Standards for Medical Control Physicians:**

- A. Must be a physician who has demonstrated competency in emergency medicine, as defined by the following criteria:
  - 1. Is board certified or has boards-in-progress in emergency medicine; or
  - 2. Has completed a residency program in another primary medicine specialty, i.e., Family Practice, Pediatrics, Internal Medicine or Surgery and has successfully completed an ACLS course (PALS or APLS may be substituted for ACLS for physicians employed at hospitals predominantly providing services for pediatrics) within the past 5 years; or
  - 3. Is a second year or above resident in Emergency Medicine giving medical control at the hospital where in residency and has successfully completed an ACLS course within the past 5 years.
- B. Must complete a standardized medical control course and successfully pass a test that is developed by Hennepin County Public Health, under the auspices of the EMS Council Ambulance Medical Directors Subcommittee, and approved by the E.D. Medical Director. The objectives of this education are to become familiar with the System ALS Medical Treatment Protocols, to become familiar with the capability of EMS personnel and hospitals in the community, and to demonstrate and maintain competence in EMS skills and knowledge. Recertification will occur as determined by the EMS Council Ambulance Medical Directors Subcommittee.
- C. Must assume the legal responsibility for all orders given to paramedics.
- D. Must be authorized to provide medical control by the ALS service medical director(s).

### **III. Compliance/Penalties:**

- A. Non-compliance with any provision of this policy shall be reported within 72 hours of discovery to the Health Authority.
- B. Radio inoperability should be reported to the West MRCC immediately upon discovery and to the Health Authority within 72 hours of discovery.
- C. If a violation of this policy is not corrected within two weeks of notifying the Health Authority, the EMS Council Executive Committee shall issue a Correction Order. Recipients of a Correction Order are granted one week from the time the Correction Order is issued to remedy the violation(s).
- D. Violation(s) that are not remedied within one week of the Correction Order shall result in review and a vote by the EMS Council Executive Committee to suspend medical control (physician or hospital) status and/or suspend EMS Council membership.
- E. Suspended medical control (physician or hospital) status, or EMS Council Membership, shall be reinstated upon correction of the policy violation.
- F. Violation(s) that are not remedied after suspension of medical control (physician or hospital) status and/or EMS Council membership shall result in review and a vote by the EMS Council to revoke medical control (physician or hospital) status and/or EMS Council membership.