These protocols have been adapted from the Iowa Department of Public Health, Bureau of Emergency Medical Services; State of Iowa Protocols – 2014. Current copies of the State protocols are located at http://www.idph.state.ia.us/ems/protocols.asp

The current protocols as presented in the WDMEMS App or online reference shall be the acting protocols of West Des Moines Emergency Medical Services.

A signed copy of all patient care protocols will be maintained in the West Des Moines Emergency Medical Services Administrative Offices.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of these protocols is to ensure safe and effective intervention during the out-of-hospital phase of patient care. In consideration of the unique resources, needs, population, and the geography of EMS systems in Iowa, individual medical directors may choose to enhance or omit portions of these protocols in accordance with Iowa Code, Chapter 147A. Medical directors are responsible to ensure the EMS personnel using these protocols have the training and skills required, and perform quality assurance activities to assure these protocols are used appropriately. Ongoing review and update of these protocols is necessary to keep pace with interventions known to be effective in out-of-hospital care.

AUTHORITY:

According to Iowa Code, Chapter 147A, emergency medical personnel may only deliver emergency medical care under the direction of a physician medical director, licensed to practice medicine in Iowa. The medical practice of out-of-hospital personnel is an extension of the medical director’s license. Paramedics have authority to perform all the medications and procedures described in these protocols without contacting medical control for authorization. Contact Medical Control for authorization if you need to deviate in any way from these protocols. There is no need to give a specific patient care report to a physician designee at the hospital concerning procedures or medications you have already provided. It is acceptable to deliver this report to the dispatcher at the receiving hospital.

Along with the increased autonomy of allowing paramedics to perform by protocol, comes the additional responsibility of making wise treatment decisions. Paramedics must be able to defend their treatment, and their use of the protocol, if a treatment appears to be inappropriate or ill-advised on the patient's arrival at the Emergency Department.

The emergency medical care provider present with the highest level of certification should determine, based upon the patient care needs, the appropriate level of provider to attend the patient during transport.
A8. Purpose and Authority

Service Program Name:
WEST DES MOINES EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
IOWA EMS ALLIANCE / UNITYPOINT-WEST DES MOINES

Service Authorization Level:
EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN- BASIC / PARAMEDIC / CRITICAL CARE / TRANSPORT

Service Medical Directors:
CHAD TORSTENSON, M.D.
CORY VAUDT, D.O.