



APPLICATION:

This standing order applies when an Orange County EMS provider is dispatched to a patient who is enrolled in a certified hospice-palliative care program and when that EMS provider has received training in the evaluation and treatment of hospice patients.

STANDING ORDER: HOSPICE PATIENT EVALUATION AND TREATMENT

1. Upon arrival to the scene, confirm the patient is enrolled in a hospice-palliative care program:
 - a. Review hospice documentation with caregiver/patient to confirm enrollment. Confirm hospice nurse/physician staff's contact information.
 - b. Request the patient's POLST form (refer to OCEMS Policy # 350.51 J) and if available, honor any patient requests provided on the form. If POLST form is not provided, request any available DNR documentation.
 - c. If the patient has administered an aid-in-dying drug as defined in the CALIFORNIA END OF LIFE ACT OPTION, confirm the final attestation and refer to OCEMS Policy # 350.51(K).
 - d. As appropriate, treat patient per Orange County EMS BLS or ALS Scope of Practice within the requested categories of the patient POLST form.
2. Evaluate patient and contact by telephone the patient's on-call hospice provider (nurse, physician or other hospice advanced practice provider) and provide a report of the patient's condition and any treatment provided.
3. After provider contact and consultation, further care should be rendered per consultation and within the Orange County EMS BLS or ALS Scope of Practice.
4. Unless requested by the patient or caregiver, patient may be evaluated and treated on scene with care transferred to the hospice provider upon their arrival. If the patient condition is stabilized, care may be transferred to the hospice provider by telephone and the scene cleared.
5. If transport from the scene is requested by the patient or caretaker, the patient should immediately be transported to an appropriate ERC. Document request in patient PCR.

DOCUMENTATION:

1. Include the hospice provider's information and recommendations in the PCR narrative section.
2. If possible, obtain a copy of the POLST or final attestation.

Approved:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "S. H. Thomas".

Review Dates: 11/16
Final Date for Implementation: 04/01/2017
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