



Deceased Subjects

Policy:

EMS will handle the disposition of deceased subjects in a uniform, professional, and timely manner.

Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Organize and provide for a timely disposition of any deceased subject
- Maintain respect for the deceased and family
- Allow EMS to return to service in a timely manner.

Procedure:

1. Do not remove lines or tubes from unsuccessful cardiac arrests/codes unless directed below.
2. Notify the law enforcement agency with jurisdiction if applicable.
3. If subject was found deceased by EMS, the scene is turned over to law enforcement.
4. If EMS has attempted to resuscitate the patient and then terminated the resuscitative efforts, the EMS personnel should contact the family physician (medical cases) or medical examiner (traumatic cases or family physician unavailable) to provide information about the resuscitative efforts.
5. Transport arrangements should be made in concert with law enforcement and the family's wishes.
6. If the deceased subject's destination is other than the county morgue, any line(s) or tube(s) placed by EMS should be removed prior to transport.
7. Document the situation, name of Physician or Medical Examiner contacted, the agency providing transport of the deceased subject, and the destination on the patient care report form (PCR).