

Memo

To: All EMS Professionals
From: Tom Russell, Prehospital Care Coordinator
CC: EMS Management
Date: 01/04/08
Re: EMS Patches

It has come to our attention that the treating attendants on calls to MidState Medical Center have allowed the person driving to make patches to the ED. An EMS patch is used not only for alerting the ED to the transport of a patient, but also allows the ED Triage RN and/or Physician to ask questions of the treating technician. This allows the ED to change/request specific treatment and to allow better patient care to occur. The only cases where the driver should make patches are:

1. The patient is violent or is a threat to themselves or others, including a threat for flight
2. The person in back is performing a critical skill and the transport time would not allow them to patch.
3. The technician in back is unconscious

Number three is not intended as a joke, when you accept Medical Control from MidState Medical Center we expect that the person involved in the patient care will do the patch and transmit the current status and treatment of the patient. Remember if you transport a patient who has a poor outcome and the EMS Office must investigate the CMED tapes will be requested and your voice should be the one doing the report. During the investigation you will be asked why you did not follow the **Continuum of Care** which says that you report both verbally and via PCR what you see and what you have done for treatment. Failure to do so can result in Termination of Medical Control.