



Virginia Beach Department of Emergency Medical Services



OPERATIONS

EMS DUTY PHYSICIAN PROGRAM POLICY

PURPOSE: The EMS Duty Physician Program is established to provide an opportunity for physician involvement in day-to-day operations.

APPLICABILITY: This program applies to all members of the Department of Emergency Medical Services meeting the criteria of the Medical Doctor member category within the Department of Emergency Medical Services Membership and Application policy.

GENERAL PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Operational Medical Director (OMD) or his designee will ensure that effective physician oversight is provided to all patient care and clinical operations. As such, the OMD shall establish performance and clinical expectations for physicians serving as an EMS Duty Physician. The OMD must provide direct approval for any physician wishing to serve as an EMS Duty Physician.

When on-duty, an EMS Duty Physician reports to the on-duty Shift Supervisors. When off-duty, the EMS Duty Physician reports to the Deputy Chief of Operations or his designee (for leave approval or other administrative matters). In all cases, direct communications between an EMS Duty Physician and the Operational Medical Director shall be allowed and encouraged.

PATIENT CARE

The provision of patient care, either directly or via medical orders to prehospital providers, is to be conducted in accordance with the Tidewater EMS Regional Medical Protocols and/or any Department of EMS (DEMS) Supplementary Protocols. Wherever such protocols require a physician order, the EMS Duty Physician may utilize them on standing orders.

With respect to the Extraordinary Measures Protocol, the EMS Duty Physician shall be deemed to simultaneously occupy the on-line physician role and the provider role if and only if time does not allow the EMS Duty Physician to consult a distinct on-line physician.

Nothing in this policy shall be construed to allow an EMS Duty Physician to carry medication, medical supplies, equipment; or to administer alternative medical treatments not otherwise approved for use in the Virginia Beach Emergency Response System, unless as part of a registered and approved Quality Management Project per the requirements of the Department of EMS Quality Management Plan.

The addition of, or changes to, DEMS Supplementary Protocols must be made via recommendation to the OMD through the DEMS Medical Oversight Steering Committee.

APPLICATION PROCESS

1. Initial applications: Individuals who are not current members of the EMS Department shall follow the application procedure described in the EMS Volunteer Membership & Application Policy, with the following exceptions:
 - The application packet must indicate interest in the EMS Duty Physician Program specifically.
 - The application packet must include evidence of meeting the additional minimum requirements for Medical Doctor members (copy of physician license, evidence of ALS skills, etc).
 - EMS staff shall route a copy of the application packet to the Division Chief responsible for regulation & enforcement for subsequent explicit approval from the Operational Medical Director (OMD).
2. Transitional applications: Personnel who are already current members of the EMS Department may transition into the EDP program by submitting evidence directly to the Division Chief responsible for regulation & enforcement showing that the applicant meets the minimum program application requirements. The Division Chief will seek out the OMD's approval.
3. Evidence of ALS skills: The EMS Chief and the OMD shall be the final authorities on what constitutes valid evidence of ALS skills for the sake of this program.

OPERATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

The EMS Duty Physician:

- 1) Must adhere to monthly duty requirements established by DEMS Standard Operating Guidelines (SOGs).
- 2) Must function as an EMS Duty Physician when on duty; cannot practice at a lower level.
- 3) Will be scheduled by the DEMS Chief Scheduling Officer.
- 4) Primary agency affiliation for the EMS Duty Physician within the Virginia Beach EMS system will be with the DEMS.
- 5) Will report to duty in the prescribed uniform at the designated location per DEMS SOGs.
- 6) Once approved and having met all applicable criteria, the EMS Duty Physician will respond to incidents in a DEMS vehicle per DEMS SOGs to provide: clinical guidance, assistance, physician oversight and/or patient care.
 - a. The EMS Duty Physician will be dispatched to some incident types per DEMS SOGs when logged on duty.
 - b. The EMS Duty Physician may be requested to respond, or choose to respond, to other incident types in consult with the EMS Shift Supervisors.
- 7) Is expected to be available for consult by DEMS providers when on-duty, unless already assigned to an unrelated case.
 - a. Consultations may include ad-hoc informational needs either before, during, or after an incident, and shall be conducted per DEMS SOGs.

APPROVED:

 7/1/2019

Operational Medical Director Date

ORDERED:

 7/1/2019

EMS Chief Date

EMS DUTY PHYSICIAN PROGRAM POLICY

Page 4

LINKAGES		
Formal documents that refer to this policy: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• (none)	Formal documents referred to in this policy: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• VBDEMS Membership & Application Policy• TEMS Regional Medical Protocols• VBDEMS Supplementary Protocols• VBDEMS Quality Management Plan• VBDEMS Medical Oversight Steering Committee Policy• VBDEMS SOGs	
DATES		
Established: 7/1/2018	Updated: 7/1/2019	Formally reviewed: NA