



MEDICAL CONTROL DIRECTIVE

2022-09

DATE: May 19, 2022

TO: Pinellas County EMS Agencies
Pinellas County Emergency Communications
Pinellas County Certified EMTs and Paramedics
Pinellas County Certified Advanced Practice Paramedics, Nurses
Pinellas County Online Medical Control Physicians
Pinellas County Ambulance Billing and Financial Services
ED Nurse Managers

FROM: Dr. Angus Jameson, EMS Medical Director 

RE: CS1 Definition Of A Patient - Pediatric Updates

Effective Date: May 25, 2022, 0800 hrs.

Clinical Standard 1 (CS1) Definition of a Patient (attached) is revised to clarify definitions and hospital destination selection for pediatric patients:

- The definition of a pediatric patient is revised to be someone who “has not yet reached their 18th birthday” for the purposes of selecting a hospital destination for general pediatrics and specialty services including Neonate, STEMI, Stroke, Baker Act.
- There are exceptions to the above for Trauma and Pregnancy as follows:
 - o Patients meeting Trauma Alert and Trauma Transport Criteria who have not yet reached their 16th Birthday will be considered pediatric and transported to pediatric Trauma Centers. Patients 16 and older will be considered adult for trauma.
 - o Patients who would otherwise go to a pediatric specific hospital but who are pregnant or recently (less than six weeks) postpartum will be transported to an adult hospital with OB services.
- No change to clinical protocol selection, medication dosing, or equipment sizing criteria.

Attachments:

- Medical Operations Manual Volume 1 - Clinical Standard 1 (CS1) Definition of a Patient - Rev. May 2022

CS1 DEFINITION OF A PATIENT

Universal Definition of a Patient:

Any individual who has themselves requested, or have had requested on their behalf, medical assistance from the Pinellas County EMS System shall be considered a patient.

Additionally, an individual with any of the following shall be considered a patient:

- a complaint suggestive of injury or illness
- has evidence of injury or illness
- has experienced a situation or event that may precipitate injury or illness

These criteria shall be applied in the broadest sense and where there is any question or doubt, the individual must be considered a patient.

Pediatric Specific Considerations:

- **Clinical treatment protocols, medication dosing, and equipment sizing:**
 - A patient weighing less than 37 kg or able to be measured with the Handtevy Pediatric Length-Based Tape is to be considered pediatric for treatment protocol selection, medication dosing and equipment sizing
 - While a reasonable estimate may be given by an age of 13 years or younger, clinicians must use judgement given that developmental age and weight are increasingly mismatched
- **Hospital destination selection:**
 - A patient who has not yet reached their 18th birthday will be considered pediatric for the purposes of selecting a hospital destination. This includes general pediatrics and specialty services including:
 - Neonate
 - STEMI
 - Stroke (including suspected ICH)
 - Baker Act
- **Pediatric Hospital Destination Exceptions:**
 - **TRAUMA:** Per Florida trauma triage protocols, a patient who has not yet reached their 16th birthday will be considered pediatric and should therefore be transported to a pediatric trauma center. (Ref. 64J.2)
 - **PREGNANCY:** A patient who would otherwise go to a pediatric specific hospital but is pregnant or recently (less than six weeks) postpartum should be transported to an adult hospital with OB services.