


Section: Medical Operations General  
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1. HCFR currently provides three levels of medical care: First Responder, EMT, and Paramedic.
  - a. BLS transport is provided by private companies and the volunteers of the Sun City Rescue Squad.
  - b. Regardless of initial units dispatched to an incident, the decision to transfer a patient to a BLS provider for transport shall only be made after an appropriate level patient evaluation, vital sign measurement and evaluation of the patients past medical history has been completed.
  - c. Patient transfer of care decisions must always be in the best interest of the patient you are treating.
  - d. Pediatric patients 5 years of age and younger shall be transported via HCFR when an HCFR rescue unit is dispatched initially and there are not more patients on scene than Rescue units dispatched. (Suppression units are not required to call for a Rescue unit if BLS was initially dispatched with them to the call).
2. It is HCFR policy to provide the best possible medical care while maintaining good relations with all other providers. In order to accomplish these goals, it is important that all pre-hospital care providers work together to provide the appropriate care to all patients.
3. The officer in charge of the ALS transport unit shall be the lead medical authority on-scene and will be ultimately responsible for all patient care.
  - a. If a promoted paramedic officer (Stand Alone qualified) is assigned to a non-transport unit, *and* the paramedic in charge of the transporting rescue is an *Acting Officer*, the promoted paramedic officer (Stand Alone qualified) will have the option of maintaining or assuming the lead role so long as they accompany the patient to the receiving facility, performs the transfer of care, and completes all the appropriate documentation for the call.
  - b. The Rescue Officer (promoted or acting) shall be in the patient compartment partaking in and supervising care during the transport of all critical patients, unstable patients, patients whose condition is likely to deteriorate during transport and HCFR members being transported while on duty.
  - c. If there are conflicting opinions regarding the proper course of treatment or any other medical issue, Medic-1 shall be consulted and their decision shall be final.
4. Hillsborough County Fire Rescue paramedics, who are assigned to a non-transport unit and are on the scene with an ALS patient, will only turn the patient over to a provider with a Hillsborough County COPCN for "**ALS Emergency Scene Response**".
  - a. This would include ALS transport units from Hillsborough County Fire Rescue, Tampa Fire Rescue, Temple Terrace Fire Rescue, Plant City Fire Rescue, Bayflite, and Aeromed.
  - b. If it is determined that immediate transport is in the patient's best interest and the closest transport unit available is a unit that only has a Hillsborough County COPCN for "**BLS emergency scene response**" (i.e. AMR, AMC, Transcare, Sun City Rescue), whether or not they have a paramedic on board or not, the on-scene Hillsborough County Fire Rescue paramedic will accompany the patient to the receiving facility and will be responsible for all care provided.