

H. PHYSICIAN ORDERS FOR EXTRAORDINARY CARE NOT COVERED BY MARYLAND PROTOCOL (NEW '20)

Rarely, a physician providing on-line medical consultation may direct an EMS clinician to render care that is life-saving but not directly addressed by the protocols.

1. **ALL** of the following criteria **MUST** be present for EMS clinicians to proceed with an order under this section:
 - a) During the consultation, both the consulting physician and the EMS clinician must agree that the patient's condition and extraordinary care are not addressed elsewhere within these medical protocols and that the order is absolutely necessary to maintain the life of the patient.
 - b) The EMS clinician must feel capable of correctly performing the care directed by the consulting physician, based on the instructions given by the consulting physician.
 - c) The EMS clinician must inform the consulting physician of the effect of the treatment and notify the receiving physician of the treatment upon arrival at the hospital (if the receiving physician is different than the consulting physician).
 - d) The EMS clinician must inform the EMS Operational Program Medical Director as soon as practical after the call.
2. If an EMS clinician receives an order for care that is not covered by Maryland protocols and does not feel comfortable with it or does not agree that it is absolutely necessary to maintain the life of the patient, they shall proceed with the "Inability to Carry Out Physician Order" section.
3. This extraordinary care protocol is intended to address the potential rare, unusual or unforeseen situations not specifically addressed within protocols. This extraordinary care protocol is neither a *carte blanche* for any and all actions nor a device to avoid or circumvent protocols. In all situations, emergency health care clinicians, both EMS and on-line physicians providing medical direction, are accountable for their actions in discharging their patient care responsibilities.

EXTRAORDINARY CARE CHECKLIST

- Identify the need for extraordinary care with physician consult and EMS clinician acceptance.
 - Care is not covered elsewhere in the protocols.
 - Care is absolutely necessary to maintain the life of the patient.
- Immediately upon delivery of patient, EMS clinician must notify the receiving physician of the effect of treatment rendered.
- Notify the EMS Operational Program Medical Director as soon as practical after the call.