



UTSW/BioTel EMS TRAINING BULLETIN

March 16, 2015

EMS TB 15-004

EMS Providers Responding Outside of Their Normal Jurisdiction for a State Disaster Response

Purpose:

1. To set forth the practice guidelines for UTSW/BioTel EMS Providers who have been deployed as part of a State response team during a disaster or potential disaster.

Details:

1. EMS Providers deployed by their respective EMS agency as a State disaster asset shall operate under the authority of the UTSW/BioTel EMS Medical Direction Team when:
 - a. The Texas Department of State Health Services (TX DSHS) has called for state resources to deploy in response to a large-scale, multi-jurisdictional, and/or potential large-scale incident, **AND**
 - b. The EMS Provider is on duty for his/her agency.
2. UTSW/BioTel EMS Providers operating during State-requested deployment shall utilize the UTSW/BioTel EMS Guidelines for Therapy and shall contact BioTel for consultation, when required by those Guidelines, and when possible.
 - a. Exceptions to this requirement are explained below, in sections 3 and 4.
3. Under certain circumstances, the Texas Disaster Medical System (TDMS) may deploy a Medical Control Physician into the local designated Medical Operations Center (MOC).
 - a. UTSW/BioTel EMS Providers are authorized to practice under that physician's direction.
 - b. When practicing under a Non-UTSW/BioTel Physician's medical direction, the following information must be documented in the Patient Care Record (PCR) or electronic Patient Care Record (ePCR):
 - i. Physician's full name; **AND**
 - ii. Physician's credentials (e.g. M.D. or D.O., and TX license number); **AND**
 - iii. Details of the treatment ordered by that physician.
4. When no Medical Control Physician has been designated by the State to provide on-line or on-scene medical direction, **and** when BioTel contact cannot be established because of communications failure (e.g. absent cellphone service in a disaster area), UTSW/BioTel EMS Providers shall use their best clinical judgment to provide patient care within their scope of practice.
 - a. Under these exceptional circumstances, treatment modalities that would normally require prior BioTel authorization within the standard UTSW/BioTel EMS Guidelines for Therapy may be used without BioTel consultation.

- b. EMS Providers shall fully document on the PCR or ePCR all deviations from the standard UTSW/BioTel EMS Guidelines for Therapy that were necessary during the disaster response.

References:

1. [UTSW BioTel EMS Guidelines for Therapy](#)

- ***UTSW/BioTel EMS Providers may contact BioTel at any time with questions or concerns about this policy.***