ON-SCENE OFF-DUTY EMS PROVIDER

PURPOSE

A. At the scene of a medical emergency, an off-duty BCEMS System provider may

arrive at the scene prior to, or following the on-duty crew arrival, and offer service.

B. The purpose of these guidelines is to explicitly authorize the functioning of Bonner

County Accredited EMS System Providers while off-duty, and delineate the drugs

and equipment they are authorized to possess while off-duty. This policy applies to

all prescription drugs and medical devices labeled “for sale by” or “on the

authorization of a licensed physician.” It does not apply to prescription drugs and

devices for which the provider has a valid prescription for personal use from their

physician.

**Guidelines**

A. Off-duty provision of patient care:

1. Accredited Bonner County EMS System Providers are explicitly authorized to

Provide Basic Life Support (BLS) and Advanced Life Support (ALS) while off-

duty. This includes the use of automatic and manual defibrillators where

available.

1. Nothing in this policy shall require a Bonner County Accredited EMT or Paramedic personnel to provide BLS or ALS while off-duty.
2. If an off-duty provider chooses to provide assistance to a patient already under the care of Bonner County EMS System personnel, it shall be at the request of, and coordinated by, the on-duty EMS personnel providing patient care. If only BLS Personnel are on scene, assistance may be provided only at the request of the incident commander.
3. Overall patient care will remain the responsibility of the on-duty EMS personnel except at the specific request of the on-duty provider responsible for patient care and with the concurrence of the off-duty provider.
4. In the situation where no EMS personnel are in attendance, the off-duty provider may render BLS or ALS care within their capabilities and available equipment **until** arrival of on-duty EMS personnel.
5. Transfer of patient care will then be made to the on-duty personnel. Medical Authority/ Chain of Command guideline (1040) does not apply in this situation to the off-duty paramedic when potentially releasing patient to the care of another EMS practitioner with a lower level of training.
6. The use of off-duty personnel is not to be encouraged as routine; similarly, EMS personnel are not encouraged to seek out off-duty participation in routine EMS patient evaluation and treatment.

B. Off-Duty Possession of Drugs and Medical Devices:

1. Accredited Bonner County advanced providers are authorized under this policy

to possess advanced airway devices and adjuncts including laryngoscopes and

endotracheal tubes while off-duty.

1. All ALS drugs, and all other devices, are NOT authorized for off-duty possession, by an EMS provider except under paragraph B(3):
2. All providers whose employer requires them to possess ALS supplies off- duty may apply to the Bonner County EMS System Medical Director for authorization to possess drugs and other medical devices off-duty. Simply “to be ready for an emergency” is not a sufficient reason for off-duty possession of drugs and medical devices. This application must describe the clear necessity for, and the circumstances under which, the drugs and/or medical devices will be used by the off-duty provider as well as the reason(s) why this need cannot be met by other EMS resources in the County. The application must list the specific drugs and/or medical devices requested to be possessed off-duty. This application must be accompanied by a letter of support from the provider’s employer clearly describing the situation requiring the provider to carry drugs and devices off-duty.
3. If the Bonner County EMS System Medical Director concurs in the need for off-duty possession of drugs and/or medical devices, he or she will issue a specific authorization for the provider to possess ALS drugs and medical devices off-duty under this policy. This authorization must be renewed every 36 months and automatically expires upon termination of the provider’s employment. If the new employment situation of the paramedic requires off-duty possession of drugs and medical devices, a new application is required.
4. Off-duty possession by EMS providers of controlled substances is explicitly prohibited under this policy.
5. Drugs or medical devices not required under a current Bonner County Patient Care Treatment Guideline are NOT authorized for off-duty possession under this policy.