

TRURO FIRE RESCUE
STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE

S.O.G. # 116 ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION (PATIENT NOT TRANSPORTED)
EFFECTIVE 09-13-04

1.1

1.1.1 This is to remind all ambulance services, their EMT-Paramedics, and other interested parties that there is no statute, regulation, administrative requirement, protocol or policy that permits ambulance services to dispatch their Paramedics to administer medications to individuals they are not transporting by ambulance. Additionally, there is no legal authority for a Paramedic to carry out such a role.

1.1.2 The Department is aware that ambulance services are receiving calls to send EMT-Paramedics to such individuals, often people who are incarcerated (either being held at local police department or at a local jail) and whom the police have found with medications on their person. The ambulance services are being called solely to administer the medication, with no expectation of assessment, other treatment or transportation of the individual to a hospital.

1.1.3. Under 105 CMR 170.355(A), an ambulance service and its EMTs are obligated to dispatch an available EMS vehicle, to provide emergency response, assessment and treatment in accordance with the Statewide Treatment Protocols AND to transport a patient to an appropriate health care facility, and may not refuse to perform ANY of these three responsibilities. EMT-Paramedics who administer medications without assessing patients and without transporting those patients to hospitals violate the Massachusetts EMS regulations, jeopardize patient safety and expose themselves, and the ambulance services for which they work, to liability.