

Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service

FIRE CHIEF'S GENERAL ORDER

NUMBER: 15-07

July 9, 2015

TO: All MCFRS Personnel

FROM: Fire Chief Scott E. Goldstein



SUBJECT: Acquisition and Transmission of 12 Lead ECGs

This FCGO supersedes & cancels FCGO #11-07.

The primary emphasis, to date, of the MCFRS 12-Lead ECG program has been the rapid identification of STEMI patients along with the early activation of the appropriate resources at the hospital. Reducing the Emergency to Intervention time has been and is still essential to enhancing the ability of the patient to recover without suffering long term heart damage.

Over time, both the pre-hospital and hospital literature have demonstrated that pre-hospital 12-Leads can significantly assist in the treatment of many other types of patient presentations and therefore this program should now be expanded beyond the traditional scope of only including obvious STEMI patients.

Therefore, effective immediately, all ALS personnel must both acquire and transmit a 12-Lead ECG on any patient, regardless of age, in whom the ALS provider suspects a possible cardiac related event (examples of these patients would include those with history of diabetes, high blood pressure, and/or elderly with vague chief complaints or any patient who has chest pain/discomfort due to illicit substances).

In addition, all ALS personnel must both acquire and transmit a 12-Lead ECG on any patient who has reached their 35th birthday and presents with any of the following conditions:

- Chest discomfort from a non-traumatic cause
- Dyspnea not obviously explained by pulmonary causes (such as asthma, croup, etc.)
- Syncope or profound light-headedness with near-syncope
- Any of the following symptoms that are not obviously explained by other causes:
 - Profuse diaphoresis
 - Arm, shoulder, neck, jaw, or back pain
 - Profound nausea/persistent vomiting
 - Dizziness/vertigo, especially in diabetics or the elderly

This order does not preclude ALS providers from acquiring and/or transmitting at their discretion any 12-Lead ECG for any other reasons.

All acquired 12 Leads must be downloaded and attached to the electronic patient care record.

For further information on clinical conditions which can be diagnosed with the 12 lead ECG please refer to this information on the PSTA web site.

Questions may be addressed to the EMS Chief.

