



# Jackson Hole Fire/EMS Operations Manual

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Title: **Procedure Guidelines: IV drip medications**

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## IV drip medications (Procedure Guideline)

### SCOPE OF PRACTICE

All Paramedics shall operate within their authorized Scope of Practice as limited to those skills and medication approved for use by the Physician Medical Director and Physician Task Force on Pre-Hospital Care as approved and authorized by the Wyoming Board of Medicine

**SCOPE OF PRACTICE:** Paramedic

#### **PURPOSE:**

To provide guidelines for the initiation, titration, adjustment and/or discontinuation of IV drip medications. It is within the Wyoming scope of practice for paramedics to transport patients receiving intravenous (IV) drip medications.

#### **INDICATIONS:**

- If the medication is addressed by protocol in the Jackson Hole Fire/EMS operational guidelines and within the Wyoming Paramedic Scope of Practice, the paramedic is permitted to initiate, titrate, adjust or discontinue the medication in accordance with existing protocols or as provided by the Medical Director.
- If the medication is *not* contained within the protocols in the Jackson Hole Fire/EMS operational guidelines, the paramedic may transport the patient, but may *not* titrate or adjust the medication. The IV drip medication may be discontinued if the patient develops adverse effects from the medication. Discontinuation should be done in consultation with the transferring physician or Medical Control.
- Paramedics may transport patients with attached Patient Controlled Anesthesia (PCA) devices.

#### **SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

- It is impractical to address every medication that may be administered by IV drip. Rather, guidance should be discussed with the transferring physician based on the acuity level of the patient and the therapeutic index of the drug(s). For example, it would be appropriate for a paramedic to transport a patient receiving an antibiotic, but inappropriate to transport a patient receiving chemotherapy agents. Any questions as to the appropriateness of EMS monitoring shall go to Medical Control.