



MARTIN COUNTY FIRE RESCUE PEDIATRIC POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

This policy outlines key considerations for the care of pediatric patients, defined as individuals who have not yet reached puberty.

These policies are referenced from Martin County Protocols and Operation Standards.

Safe Haven	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Fire Rescue personnel must accept any infant left under the Infant Safe Haven Law without determining their exact age.● If possible, ask the parent for the infant's age and name.● Do not detain the parent.● Notify Communications and the EMS Captain.● Transport the infant to the nearest appropriate hospital and inform them for state agency coordination.● If abuse or neglect is suspected, notify law enforcement immediately and follow Emergency Medical Protocols.
Pediatric Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● A paramedic must accompany all patients under five years old during transport, regardless of Basic Life Support (BLS) or Advanced Life Support (ALS) care.
Abuse Reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Immediately report suspected abuse or neglect to the EMS Captain, and if transported, notify the receiving hospital.● Contact law enforcement for all confirmed cases.● Document Florida Abuse Hotline calls in the EMS report, including the call taker's name, ID, and time.● When possible, assess patients privately for psychological signs of abuse, such as passivity, fear, aggression, or substance abuse.● Note physical signs, including inconsistent injuries, different healing stages, defensive wounds, or pregnancy-related injuries.● Assess for neglect indicators like inadequate clothing, poor hygiene, absence of a caregiver, or malnutrition.
Pediatric Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● First-arriving medical personnel must use the Pediatric Trauma Score Card Methodology, as outlined in the Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), when assessing pediatric trauma patients.● The assessment must include evaluation of the following components:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Airway○ Consciousness○ Circulation○ Fractures○ Cutaneous condition○ Size (weight and length parameters)

Pediatric Trauma Triage	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Pediatric trauma triage applies to patients 15 and younger, based on physiological assessments.● If a patient doesn't meet trauma criteria but warrants Trauma Alert transport, the on-scene EMT/Paramedic must provide written justification in the run report.● The nearest pediatric trauma center is St. Mary's Hospital in West Palm Beach, with LifeStar transport available based on weather conditions.
Pediatric Refusals	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● A refusal signature is required for all minors not treated or transported.● Authorized individuals to decline care and sign on behalf of a minor are a parent, legal guardian, or law Enforcement Officer● If a parent or guardian is absent, provide necessary care and transport if a delay could harm the patient. If the delay is not harmful, attempt to contact a guardian for consent.● If refusal is given via phone or other means without a signature, document the conversation in the Patient Care Report (PCR), with a law enforcement officer signing as a witness.● Minors who may refuse care on their own behalf are emancipated minors, self-sufficient minors, or minors serving in the military
General Guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Always act in the patient's best interest and do no harm.● Use the Handtevy System to determine age-based medication dosages and equipment sizes.● If a patient's size differs significantly from their age, use Length-Based Tape for accuracy.● The One Dose Mobile App overrides the printed booklet and protocol guidelines in case of discrepancies.● Unless specified, the maximum pediatric medication doses must not exceed adult dosages in the protocol.

JUMPSTART TRIAGE

