

**W. WA. MEDICAL SERVICES
EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS TEAM
STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY FOR MEDICAL INFORMATION**

Information concerning a patient's medical condition, and some personal information, while being treated in a hospital or medical center, is highly confidential. This information should not be discussed with others, or disseminated via radio, telephone, or other communications media, without the express permission of the patient.

In the course of performing a job as an emergency communicator for a health care facility, it may become necessary to transmit some patient information. This should be handled as discreetly as possible. **Whenever possible, refer to a patient by their initials, or a medical history number, rather than by name. Never give out a patient's medical diagnosis**, when it can be linked to patient identity, over the air, either voice or digital.

Sometimes, the type of information that must be transmitted necessitates revealing the specific identity of the patient. An example would be sending information regarding a patient's location, or transfer destination, to the Northwest Medical Exchange which handles victim tracking and information for the hospitals in King County. In such cases, the information would be better handled via packet (digital) radio, rather than voice radio, unless that is the only means. .

It is legal to release, with a patient's permission:

- Name
- Age
- Sex
- Occupation
- Condition -- critical, serious, satisfactory

If you have any doubts at all about sending patient, or other information, ask the nurse or physician in charge in the department where you are operating . It is better to be overly-cautious, than reveal information illegally. Log that you have done so with permission, and by whom.