MEDICAL CONTROL GUIDELINE: VITAL SIGNS

PRINCIPLE:

1. Vital signs are a key component of the patient assessment utilized in determining the patient’s physiological status, and the treatment options that best meet their needs.

GUIDELINES:

1. Obtain and document the following vital signs on all patients equal to or greater than three years of age:
   a. Blood pressure
   b. Pulse
   c. Respiratory rate and tidal volume
   d. Level of consciousness
   e. Skin signs
   f. Temperature (if obtained)
   g. Pulse oximeter (if available and indicated by chief complaint)
   h. Assess for pain level using appropriate pain scale

2. Obtain and document the following vital signs on all patients less than three years of age:
   a. Capillary refill – avoid distal extremities
   b. Level of consciousness
   c. Pulse
   d. Respiratory rate and tidal volume
   e. Skin signs
   f. Temperature (if obtained)
   g. Pulse oximeter (if available and indicated by chief complaint)
   h. Assess for pain level using appropriate pain scale

3. Repeat and document vital signs:
   a. On any patient whose initial vital signs were not within normal limits
   b. After any treatment
   c. After administration of medications
   d. Upon transfer of care