

JOHN WALSH

3312 NORTHSIDE DR. SUITE 601

KEY WEST, FLORIDA 33040

Tuesday, September 2, 2025

Lower Florida Keys Hospital District

P.O. Box 5403

Key West, Florida 33045

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I understand that the district is considering a new contract for operating a hospital in and for the district. I propose that any such contract include a provision that the hospital shall provide Medical Direction to our fire departments (including Trauma Star), pursuant to FS. 401.265, at no cost to the fire departments. Further, the hospital should make American Heart Association training and certification¹ available to healthcare providers and residents of the district at a reasonable cost.

¹The American Heart Association (AHA) provides training in advanced cardiac life support (ACLS), basic life support (BLS), pediatric advanced life support (PALS), pediatric emergency assessment recognition and stabilization (PEARS), Advanced Stroke Life Support, and more, through a network of local affiliates, supporting instructors.

Currently, Medical Direction is provided by Doctor Gandia, who is the Community Medical Liaison of DOH Monroe, as well as being on staff at Lower Keys Medical Center. The intent of this provision is to formalize the hospital's commitment to support our pre-hospital emergency medical services, and support community healthcare in the district.

Medical Direction should include, but not be limited to:

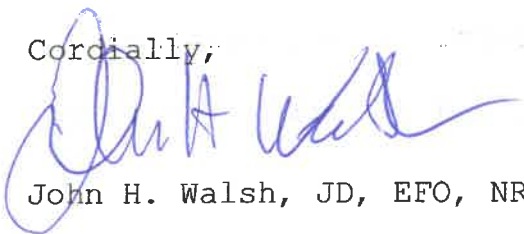
- Make on-line medical direction available 24 hours per day, seven days per week;
- Ensure that there is a process for skill maintenance and review available to EMS personnel employed by the fire departments;
- Provide remedial training opportunities in the hospital emergency department and in operating rooms or skill laboratories, for remediation and education of all pertinent EMS skills and practices, including, but not limited to, advanced airway management;
- Operate an effective quality assurance/quality improvement (QA/QI) program that includes, but is not limited to, regular review of trip records and other statistical data pertinent to the operation of the service, in accordance with the hospital's QA/QI standards and protocols, in those

cases in which ALS services were provided or in which ALS established direct patient contact;

- Make available to the hospital's emergency department physicians and nurses and the EMS personnel employed by the service, morbidity and mortality rounds and chart reviews at a frequency specified in the affiliation agreement;
- Provide appropriate orientation to all physicians who provide on-line medical direction, including but not limited to information regarding local EMS providers and point-of-entry plans;
- Coordinate the QA/QI program with the participation of the hospital's on-line medical direction physicians and the medical director;
- Maintain appropriate skills and knowledge through continuing education.

Such an agreement between the hospital and our fire department Emergency Medical Services, will enhance the quality of prehospital emergency medical care, provide better continuity of care, and improve healthcare for everyone in the district.

Cordially,



John H. Walsh, JD, EFO, NRP.

[Menu](#)

2024 Florida Statutes

[Back to Statute Search](#)

Title XXIX PUBLIC HEALTH

Chapter 401 MEDICAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORTATION

SECTION 265 Medical directors.

401.265 Medical directors.—

(1) Each basic life support transportation service or advanced life support service must employ or contract with a medical director. The medical director must be a licensed physician; a corporation, association, or partnership composed of physicians; or physicians employed by any hospital that delivers in-hospital emergency medical services and employs or contracts with physicians specifically for that purpose. Such a hospital, physician, corporation, association, or partnership must designate one physician from that organization to be medical director at any given time. The medical director must supervise and assume direct responsibility for the medical performance of the emergency medical technicians and paramedics operating for that emergency medical services system. The medical director must perform duties including advising, consulting, training, counseling, and overseeing of services, including appropriate quality assurance but not including administrative and managerial functions.

(2) Each medical director shall establish a quality assurance committee to provide for quality assurance review of all emergency medical technicians and paramedics operating under his or her supervision. If the medical director has reasonable belief that conduct by an emergency medical technician or paramedic may constitute one or more grounds for discipline as provided by this part, he or she shall document facts and other information related to the alleged violation. The medical director shall report to the department any emergency medical technician or paramedic whom the medical director reasonably believes to have acted in a manner which might constitute grounds for disciplinary action. Such a report of disciplinary concern must include a statement and documentation of the specific acts of the disciplinary concern. Within 7 days after receipt of such a report, the department shall provide the emergency medical technician or paramedic a copy of the report of the disciplinary concern and documentation of the specific acts related to the disciplinary concern. If the department determines that the report is insufficient for disciplinary action against the emergency medical technician or paramedic pursuant to s. 401.411; the report shall be expunged from the record of the emergency medical technician or paramedic.

(3) Any medical director who in good faith gives oral or written instructions to certified emergency medical services personnel for the provision of emergency care shall be deemed to be providing emergency medical care or treatment for the purposes of s. 768.13(2).

(4) Each medical director who uses a paramedic or emergency medical technician to perform blood pressure screening, health promotion, and wellness activities, or to administer immunization on any patient under a protocol as specified in s. 401.272, which is not in the provision of emergency care, is liable for any act or omission of any paramedic or emergency medical technician acting under his or her supervision and control when performing such services.

(5) The department shall adopt and enforce all rules necessary to administer this section.

History.—ss. 6, 25, ch. 82-402; ss. 12, 13, ch. 83-196; s. 8, ch. 88-186; s. 15, ch. 89-275; s. 13, ch. 89-283; s. 70, ch. 89-374; ss. 8, 36, ch. 92-78; s. 34, ch. 93-211; s. 793, ch. 95-148; s. 45, ch. 97-