



General Order

Department of Fire & EMS

G.O. 1-3-25

Subject: Fluid Documentation Guidelines - Sepsis

Date: January 14, 2025

Authority: Assistant Chief Eric Zaney/*EJZ*

Purpose

Carroll Hospital has reached out asking for some minor changes and streamlining of the way that we are documenting fluids administered in the prehospital setting.

This specifically applies to our sepsis patients, as fluid administration plays a large role in their continuum of care.

For further reference, attached below is link to an article published in the National Library of Medicine discussing the rationale for fluid administration to our sepsis patients. This article also discusses the reasons that the amount of fluid that a sepsis patient receives is important.

- <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC9463107/>

As always, we want to ensure that our patients are receiving the best care possible both in the prehospital setting as well as throughout their continuum of care.

By making the following changes to documentation, the hospital will be able to access reports and see how much fluid we gave and opt to continue the fluids we started in the field after the patient's hospital arrival if appropriate.

Guideline

When documenting under the medication tab, please select the appropriate fluid type (lactated ringers) and enter the total amount of fluid in the bag you are administering from as the dose regardless of how much of that fluid is administered at time of arrival to the hospital.

Ensure that the time that fluids were started is accurate.

In your narrative, clarify how much of the fluid was administered at time of arrival to the hospital.

During handoff, clarify the size of bag that you started as well as the amount of fluid that was administered prehospital.

Example

If a patient was administered lactated ringers from a 1000mL bag, and 250mLs were administered prior to hospital arrival, the following should be documented.

Medication tab

Medication Name:	<input type="text" value="Lactated Ringer"/>	<input type="button" value="v"/>	<input type="button" value="☰"/>	<input type="button" value="⊖"/>
Dosage:	<input type="text" value="1000"/>			
Units:	<input type="text" value="ML"/>	<input type="button" value="v"/>	<input type="button" value="☰"/>	
Route:	<input type="text" value="Intravenous (IV)"/>	<input type="button" value="v"/>	<input type="button" value="☰"/>	

Narrative – Include a statement to the effect of:

- “At time of arrival to hospital, 250mL lactated ringers were administered.”

Time

- Please ensure that the documented medication time is accurate to the time that the fluids were started.

Additional Note

The QA process has revealed that temperatures are a frequently missed piece of documentation for suspected sepsis patients – please remember to document a temperature or document why a temperature was not obtained for suspected sepsis patients.