

## Standard of Care

Boston EMS must first and foremost operate as a professional medical service. As such, members providing patient care services are held accountable to a standard of care in the same manner, as are all other patient care providers.

The standard of care for Boston EMS has several components. The first component is the force of law standard. This is the standard imposed by Massachusetts General Law Chapter 111c, regulating ambulances and ambulance services and regulations hereinafter promulgated.

The next element is the standard of ethics by which an EMT or Paramedic is bound not to disclose details of patient history and/or treatment except as authorized to other professionals involved with patient care or as required by law.

The EMT and paramedic has a moral obligation to provide the best care possible to each patient he/she attends, as determined by the limits of his/her training, without regard for the patient's age, sex, religion, sexual orientation, or ability to pay.

Finally, Boston EMS has established institutional standards. These standards are described in the Statewide Treatment protocols issued by the Department of Public Health, Office of Emergency Medical Services, and by the Medical Director of Boston EMS.