POLICY/PURPOSE:
The purpose of this Directive is to establish guidelines for departmental response to requests for medical aid and to define inter-departmental relationships on medical calls.

The City of Cedar Rapids maintains a multi-tiered Emergency Medical Service (EMS) system. In the pre-hospital setting, the EMS is comprised mainly of the Cedar Rapids Police Department (CRPD), the Cedar Rapids Fire Department (CRFD), and Area Ambulance Service.

The successful handling of most emergency medical calls will require the cooperation of all three agencies working together. The survival of the victims of such incidents may also depend on Cedar Rapids police officers performing their skills to the level trained.

PROCEDURE:
- The Joint Communications Agency (JCA) will dispatch a police unit to requests for medical emergency calls as dictated by the department’s Computer Aided Dispatching system (CAD).
  - Any requests made by the Area Ambulance Service or CRFD will require a response by police to the scene.

- Medical calls not requiring police to respond in an emergency manner will be given a general broadcast to all units by the police dispatcher. Officers working that general area may respond to dispatch and respond to the medical call location based on many factors such as:
  - Call load
  - Medical call location
  - Police units’ locations
  - Request from Area Ambulance Service or CRFD
  - Determination by a commander that a police unit needs to respond

- At a mass casualty event, officers will treat the injured and sick according to the triage algorithm.
- No response will be needed at a doctor’s office or nursing care facility unless a request comes from the Area Ambulance Service.
- Current CRFD and Area Ambulance Service policies dictate that in medical situations occurring as the result of violent acts or situations where the strong likelihood for violence may exist, CRFD and Area Ambulance Service will stage their responding unit(s) at a safe distance away from the scene until officers advise that it is safe to enter. Once officers feel that a potentially hostile environment has been secured, they will notify dispatch who, in turn, will notify the staged units to respond to the
POLICY TITLE: Police Response to Request for Medical Aid

STANDARD/REF #: 

APPROVED BY: Wayne Jerman, Chief

REVIEWED DATE: 4/6/2016

REQUIRED REVIEWERS: Patrol Captain

REVISED DATE: 4/6/2016

SUBJECT MATTER EXPERT: Department Medical Lead

- If Area Ambulance Service or CRFD are on scene prior to police, and the police unit(s) is responding from a distant location, a commander may check with dispatch to determine if the police unit needs to continue and in what response mode.

- If the police unit arrives first on the scene, police personnel, after ensuring their own safety, will institute emergency care to the level trained.

- Upon arrival of a higher level of care, police personnel will turn over patient care when requested. All agencies must ensure that this turnover of care is done as proficiently and professionally as possible.

- While on scene, the officers will assist in various activities, to include but not limited to:
  - Crowd and traffic control
  - On scene theft prevention
  - Carrying equipment
  - Other activities as necessary

- Once officers are relieved of medical duties by properly identified medical personnel and assistance is no longer needed, an officer will remain on scene until units for the other agencies have left, unless advised by CRFD or Area Ambulance Service that they may leave.
  - If the CRFD and/or Area Ambulance Service is going to be at the scene for an extended length of time, the officers may check with both agencies to insure that assistance is no longer needed prior to going back into service.

- It will be necessary to complete the Incident Report Form (CRPD #600) if officers give patient care. When patient care is not given, the officer will give a “Code Mary” designation with patient’s name and age.

- Incidents which are routinely investigated do require being documented on the Incident Report Form (CRPD #600).