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**MILWAUKEE COUNTY EMS
ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY
CRASH SCENE IMAGES**

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POLICY: Digital or hardcopy images (photos) of a crash scene are not a standard of practice for MCEMS and should not be performed for patient care purposes. At this time MCEMS will not assume responsibility for the capture, transmission, storage, or any other action involved with such images. Any department choosing to take crash scene photographs will be responsible for ensuring that any images are in compliance with appropriate local, state, and federal regulations. At this time, crash scene images are not part of the patient care record.

RATIONALE: The Froedtert Hospital Trauma Committee offered its expert opinion that crash scene images, while interesting, do not provide any added patient care benefit. Two reasons were given. First, it is current practice to aggressively use CT imaging of crash victims, and crash scene images do not provide any added information. Second, great variability in image capture techniques (such as distance, lighting intensity, and view angles) exist, making images difficult to interpret reliably.

Furthermore, there is a potential risk with crash scene images as these images may be regulated by HIPAA if they can be linked to a patient. Newer digital technologies also make images more difficult to confine to authorized personnel.