### PURPOSE

To delineate the appropriate use of emergency services for hospice patients.

### Policy

In emergency situations, Ohio Living personnel will assess the patient's condition and initiate the use of emergency services to assist the patient for those instances that are not related to the terminal illness. Hospice personnel will administer any appropriate techniques they are qualified to perform and notify the patient's attending physician, family/caregiver, and the Clinical Team Leader as soon as possible.

### PRocEDURE

1. In the absence of a DNR order, maintain an open airway and provide cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). CPR will be performed only by those personnel who are CPR certified. If the patient has elected to rescind his/her DNR order or has not yet obtained an order, certified hospice personnel will initiate CPR, call 911, inform the patient's attending physician, and inform their Clinical Team Leader.
2. Licensed hospice personnel will notify the physician, the supervisor, and family/caregiver. Non-licensed personnel will notify the Clinical Team Leader, RN Case Manager, or other RN as soon as possible to assist in notifying the attending physician and family/caregiver.
3. The decision to transport the patient to a hospital will be made in order of priority by the physician, the ambulance attendants, the hospice nurse and the patient's family/caregiver.
4. Hospice personnel will not attempt to transport the patient alone in a private vehicle.
5. If the decision is made to transport the patient to a hospital, hospice personnel should follow the patient unless instructed otherwise by the supervisor, the physician, and/or the patient/family/caregiver.