

SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION

# Emergency Medical Support Plan For the President of the United States and VIPs

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*Editor's note: The following plan for emergency medical support for the President is offered as a guideline to emergency physicians and other EMS personnel when involved with emergency medical support of any public official or VIP. It is not meant to imply that the quality of emergency care available to the President is inadequate.*

## INTRODUCTION

Prior to the visit of the President to a designated community in the United States, a physician director must be identified in that region who will assume the responsibility for his emergency medical care. This physician director will work closely with the White House medical staff and be informed of any pertinent medical history that would influence the President's emergency health care.

In preparation for the President's visit, the physician director will ready the personnel and equipment necessary to provide advanced life support to the President in the event of injury or illness. In addition, the physician director will make arrangements for transfer of the President to the appropriate critical care facilities. It is recommended that the physician director not issue a profes-

sional fee for coordinating the health care or for his availability for emergency care.

## PREHOSPITAL PHASE

A mobile advanced life support unit (LSU) should be strategically located, properly identified, and have specific capabilities for rendering life support to the President in the event of an emergency at the onset of the illness or injury. The personnel in the advanced mobile LSU must be able to establish and maintain airway and circulation, monitor cardiac rhythms, treat cardiac dysrhythmias, stabilize the President's condition, and transport him to the appropriate emergency department for continuing care.

## PERSONNEL

The mobile advanced life support unit must be staffed by either the physician director, by specially trained nurses, or paramedical personnel who are authorized to perform advanced life support. Paramedical personnel must be trained to a level of emergency medical technician—paramedic (EMT II) or greater, as delineated by the certifying authority of the state involved so as to be capable of performing advanced life support.

The physician director, knowledgeable and skilled in the management of cardiopulmonary emergencies, must assume medical responsibility for the unit as well as the care of the President.

In the event that the physician director is not in attendance in the LSU, the nurse or EMT II must be familiar with the use of voice communication and telemetry equipment so that they will be in contact continuously with the physician director in the emergency department.

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