

**MEHLVILLE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
GUIDELINES FOR PREHOSPITAL EMERGENCY CARE**

SUBJECT: 900.13

ORIGINAL ISSUE 9/12

**MEDICAL EMERGENCIES:
ABDOMINAL PAIN**

It is important to remember that abdominal pain can be caused by a large number of different disease processes. The organ systems that may be involved in abdominal pain include the esophagus, stomach, intestinal tract, liver, pancreas, spleen, kidneys, male and female genital organs, bladder, as well as referred pain from the chest that can involve the heart, lungs or pleura. Abdominal pain may also be caused by muscular and skeletal problems. There are a limited number of problems that present with abdominal pain that are life threatening or may become life threatening. Abdominal pain emergencies are likely to lead to death due to blood or fluid loss with resultant shock. There may also be severe electrolyte abnormalities that can cause arrhythmias. Myocardial Infarction may present as abdominal pain especially in the diabetic and elderly.

Pre-Hospital Actions:

- Give nothing by mouth
- Start an IV and give fluid bolus of normal saline if signs of dehydration or shock.
- If there is concern for cardiac disease or significant electrolyte abnormality or if the patient has signs of shock or abnormal vital signs, the patient should be placed on a cardiac monitor.
- If cardiac disease or arrhythmia is a concern, a 12 lead EKG should be performed.
- Treat pain according to the pain management protocol.
- Treat nausea according to the nausea and vomiting protocol.