Clinical Indications:

- When an IV cannot be placed, some medications are approved to be given rectally.
- Frequently used in infants and children who may not be able to swallow oral medications.
- Absorption of rectally administered drugs is generally somewhat slower than the oral route.

EMT and EMT-I: (suppository administration only)

Procedure:

1. The medication should be drawn up into a syringe after checking for appropriate medication, dose, expiration date, purity, and clarity. (If medication to be administered is a suppository, go to stop 9.)
2. For pediatrics, a 6 fr or 10 fr pediatric feeding tube should be attached to the syringe.
3. Cut the tubing so there is about 4 centimeters (1 ½ inches) of tubing from where it attaches to the syringe (this eliminates a lengthy tubing).
4. Lubricate the tubing end with water soluble lubricant (i.e. KY Jelly).
5. Insert the feeding tube approximately 2 centimeters into the rectum.
6. The medication may be administered (appropriate dose per route) followed by a 2 ml saline flush.
7. Often it is necessary to hold the buttocks together to help retain the medication in the patient. Sometimes elevating the hips slightly on a non-trauma victim will assist in retention of medication.
8. Reassess.
9. If medication to be rectally administered is a suppository, check for appropriate medication, dose, expiration date, purity, and clarity. Suppositories will liquify down if placed in a warm, heated environment or held in the hand/fingertips very long. If the suppository supplied is double the quantity needed for administration, using a sterile technique, divide the suppository in half. Place the suppository dose to be administered up into the rectum. After insertion, it will be necessary to hold the buttocks together to help retain the medication in the patient. Sometimes elevating the hips slightly on a non-trauma victim will assist in retention of medication. Reassess.

Local Requirements:

- Review the indications and the procedure in the ongoing continuing education program.