The *New* District EMS Regulations

What’s New

and

What to Expect
Brief History – Title 29, Chapter 5

• Majority of the ambulance regulations were written in the mid to late 1970’s.
  – Some sections dated back to the late 50’s / early 60’s.
• This update constitutes a total rewrite of the ambulance regulations.
• New EMS regulations were published on 06 December 2013.
Individual EMS Provider Certification

• Authorizes NREMT certification as the Standard for District certification.
• Requires sponsorship by a District-certified EMS Agency and Medical Director as a requirement for certification.
• Requires that a valid CPR certification and AHA ACLS certification (when applicable) are required to maintain District certification.
Certification Requirements

• Allows for different types of certification: Active, Inactive, Provisional and Limited Reciprocity.

• Requires the EMS provider to have their cards on their person when working as a care provider.
  – Failure to present valid credentials shall result in immediate suspension of the provider’s certification.

• Outlines reasons a certification can be denied, suspended or revoked.
EMS Agency

• Expands the definition of an EMS agency beyond just those who provide an ambulance service.

• Now includes any organization that provides EMS care, to include:
  – First responder organizations.
  – Special events medical groups.
EMS Agency Certification

• Requires EMS Agencies to be certified every two years.

• Outlines certification requirements:
  – Initial certification through self assessment application, similar to EMS Educational Institutions.
  – Current EMS agencies will need to submit their application within two years.
EMS Agency Requirements

• Requires written agreements with:
  – Medical Director.
  – Operational Officer.
  – Quality Improvement Officer.

• Requires a Quality Improvement plan.

• Requires submission of protocols to DOH.
EMS Agency Requirements

• Medical Director’s responsibilities.
• Quality Improvement Officer’s responsibilities.
• Record keeping, to include:
  – Responses.
  – Staffing.
  – Medications.
  – Vehicle maintenance.
  – Patient care reports.
EMS Platform Certifications

• Ground ambulances will continue to be inspected and certified on an annual basis.
• Non-transport units, including First Responder vehicles, now included.
• Air ambulances will also be certified.
Vehicle Inspections

• New equipment listing based on American College of Surgeons recommendations.
• Inspection includes:
  – Storage of medications.
  – Storage of equipment in vehicle.
  – Cleanliness of vehicle based on CDC recommendations.
Vehicle Policies

• EMS agencies must have policies on:
  – Mechanical failure while responding to an incident.
  – Mechanical failure while transporting a patient.
  – Vehicle inventory management.
  – Vehicle maintenance records.
  – Reporting MVCs with the vehicle where a patient is injured.
  – Reporting annually on MVCs involving EMS vehicles.
Educational Institutions

• Continue to be certified on a 2-year basis.
• Leadership Requirements:
  – Medical Director.
  – Program Director.
• Annual Reporting to DOH.
• Instructor standards for all certification levels.
• Defines curriculum and course standards.
Transport Requirements

• Defines:
  – Minimum staffing levels on an ambulance.
  – 9-1-1 Patient Transports.
  – Interfacility transports into and out of the District.
  – Point-to-Point transports within the District.
Quality Improvement

• Requires Quality Improvement plans for all EMS agencies.
  – Review of patient care data.
  – Analysis of trends of care rendered.
  – Protocol violations.
  – Patient care below the standard of care.
• Requires annual reporting to DOH.
Quality Improvement Reporting

• Requires certain incidents to be reported to DOH within 72-hours, to include:
  – Incorrect medication administration.
  – Termination of resuscitation in the field.
  – Pediatric cardiac arrest.
  – Use of a District DNR order.
  – Refusal of transport to any patient with a GCS of 14 or less.
  – Any ambulance involved in a MVC while in service.
  – An EMS Provider with a Positive result from a drug test.
Medical Aid Stations

• Requirements for services providing EMS care at special events:
  – Must be certified as an EMS agency.
  – Must maintain equipment standards.
  – Must maintain patient care reports.
Violation Enforcement

• Outlines grounds for suspension or revocation of certification of EMS:
  – Providers.
  – Agencies.
  – Educational institutions.
  – Vehicles.
  – Instructors.

• Includes Appeals Process.
What’s Next?

• Implementation of the new regulations.
• Initial focus areas are:
  – New EMS agency certifications.
  – Vehicle certifications.
• Other areas.
  – Updating/revoking existing policies to align with the new regulations.
  – Updating existing forms to align with the new regulations.
Regulation Improvement

• These regulations are not perfect, but they are a much needed update and improvement over the older regulations.

• As issues are presented, DOH will continue to work to improve these regulations.
Questions/Comments
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