

Ministry of Health

Emergency Health Regulatory and
Accountability Branch

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Ministère de la Santé

Direction de la réglementation et de la
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April 8, 2020

MEMORANDUM TO: Paramedic Service Chiefs, First Nations, and Ornge

FROM: **Steven Haddad**
Director (I)
Emergency Health Regulatory and Accountability Branch

RE: **Updates to Paramedic Standards**

I am pleased to announce the publication and release of the *Patient Care and Transportation Standards v2.3 (PCTS)*, the *Provincial Equipment Standards for Ontario Ambulance Services v3.5 (Equipment Standards)*, and the *Advanced Life Support Patient Care Standards v4.7 (ALS PCS)*.

Pursuant to clause 11(d) of Ontario Regulation (O. Reg.) 257/00 under the *Ambulance Act*, each ambulance service operator and every paramedic shall ensure that patient care is provided in accordance with the *Patient Care and Transportation Standards* as published by the Ministry of Health (the ministry), as that document may be amended from time to time.

Pursuant to subsection 3(1) of O. Reg. 257/00 under the *Ambulance Act* the operator of a land ambulance service shall meet the certification criteria set out in the *Land Ambulance Certification Standards*. In accordance with Part III - Operational Certification Criteria under the *Land Ambulance Certification Standards*, (d.1) each vehicle used as an ambulance in the service shall contain as a minimum the accessory and patient care equipment set out in the document titled *Provincial Equipment Standards for Ontario Ambulance Services*, published by the ministry as may be amended from time to time.

Pursuant to clause 11(b) of O. Reg. 257/00 under the *Ambulance Act*, each ambulance service operator and every paramedic shall ensure that patient care is provided in accordance with the *Advanced Life Support Patient Care Standards* as published by the Ministry, as that document may be amended from time to time.

Revisions to these standards have involved collaboration among the branch, the Ontario Association of Paramedic Chiefs, and the Ontario Base Hospital Group Medical Advisory Committee.

All updates represent “partial updates” as per the *Living Document Framework* and comes into force immediately (**April 8, 2020**). The standards, along with a complete Summary of Changes document, are enclosed.

Updates to the PCTS have been made to clarify the relationship between these standards and Directives issued by Ontario’s Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH).

Updates to the Equipment Standards include clarification regarding the relationship between these standards and Directives issues by the CMOH, as well as the removal of all safety equipment otherwise contemplated under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*.

The update to the ALS PCS has been made to add the auxiliary “Assessment of Patients with Possible COVID-19 Medical Directive”. Please note, there are no other changes to the standards from the previous version of the ALS PCS.

Please ensure that your personnel are informed of, and become familiar with, these changes.

Please refer to the Document Control Matrix in the standards for further versioning history.

If you have any questions regarding these changes, please contact ParamedicStandards@ontario.ca.

Regards,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Steven Haddad

Enclosures

c: Senior Managers/Managers, EHRAB
Director, Senior Managers/Managers, EHPMDB
Dr. R. Dionne, Co-Chair, OBHG MAC
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Paramedic Program Coordinators
Regional Training Coordinators
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