



Thomas J. Stickrath, Director
1970 West Broad Street
P.O. Box 182073
Columbus, Ohio 43218-2073



Emergency Medical Services
Richard N. Rucker, Executive Director
(614) 466-9447 • (800) 233-0785
www.ems.ohio.gov



James Davis, Chair
Mark Resanovich, Vice-Chair
Dr. Carol Cunningham, State Medical Director

Upcoming Changes in the Ohio EMS Scope of Practice

The EMS Agenda for the Future was published by the National Highway Transportation Administration in 1996 and referred to five major components. These components are the National EMS Core Content, the National EMS Scope of Practice Model, the National EMS Education Standards, the National EMS Certification, and National EMS Education Program Accreditation. The National EMS Core Content was released in 2004 and the National EMS Scope of Practice Model was released in 2006. The National EMS Education Standards were completed in 2008, and future EMS textbooks will reflect these standards, as well as the EMS provider levels that were created in the National EMS Scope of Practice Model.

On January 8, 2009, the EMS Board passed a motion to adopt the National EMS Scope of Practice Model as a minimum guideline for EMS providers in Ohio. As you may recall, the EMS Board challenged NHTSA's final draft of the National EMS Scope of Practice Model document in 2006 as it contained language which would have capped the psychomotor skills of EMS providers. As a result of our challenge, the language in the final version of the document was amended in such a way that the psychomotor skill sets in the National EMS Scope of Practice Model represent a basic foundation or minimum standard of psychomotor skills rather than a ceiling. In addition, the document now states, "Each State has the statutory authority and responsibility to regulate EMS within its borders, and to determine the scope of practice of State-licensed EMS personnel. The *National EMS Scope of Practice Model* is a consensus-based document that was developed to improve the consistency of EMS personnel licensure levels and nomenclature among States; it does not have any regulatory authority."

The primary goal of the EMS Board is to provide high quality prehospital care to the residents and visitors of Ohio. As a result, the psychomotor skill sets within the Ohio EMS scope of practice exceeds the parameters outlined within the current Department of Transportation (DOT) EMS curriculum. As you compare the current Ohio EMS scope of practice with the National EMS Scope of Practice, there will be no reduction in our current EMS scope of practice by adopting the National EMS Scope of Practice Model as a minimum guideline. In fact, additional psychomotor skills will need to be added to the Ohio EMS scope of practice at the EMT-Paramedic level which corresponds to the Paramedic provider level within the National EMS Scope of Practice Model.

During the upcoming year, the EMS Board will be drafting legislation to amend the current titles of our EMS provider levels to correspond to the titles listed within the National EMS Scope of Practice Model. The driving force behind this decision is the upcoming revision of EMS educational materials. The publishers of EMS education textbooks plan to begin writing textbooks that reflect the new EMS provider levels in early 2010. Textbooks with the former EMS provider levels and DOT scope of practice will no longer be published as of the middle of 2010 or early 2011. The First Responder will become the Emergency Medical Responder (EMR), the EMT-Basic will become the Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), the EMT-Intermediate will become the Advanced EMT, and the EMT-Paramedic will become the Paramedic.

Mission Statement

"To promote quality and professionalism in the hiring, training, education, and delivery of fire and Emergency Medical Services with equal consideration given to all diverse populations and constituents."

The adoption of the National EMS Scope of Practice Model as a minimum guideline for EMS providers in Ohio does not mandate Ohio to accept all of the components of the National EMS Agenda for the Future nor is adoption of all of the components required by NHTSA. The EMS Board has not made any decisions regarding the other components, specifically National EMS Certification and National EMS Education Program Accreditation. The final decision about these components will not be made until the EMS Board has acquired critical information from our stakeholders, reviewed other resources, and explored all of our options. The EMS Board will ultimately base their decision upon measures that will best serve Ohio's EMS agencies, EMS professionals, EMS education institutions, residents, and visitors.

Carol A. Cunningham, M.D., FACEP, FAAEM
State Medical Director
Ohio Department of Public Safety, Division of EMS