

- Bureau of Motor Vehicles
- Emergency Management Agency
- **Emergency Medical Services**
- Office of Criminal Justice Services
- Ohio Homeland Security
- Ohio State Highway Patrol



To: Ohio EMS providers, EMS medical directors, and partners in Ohio's healthcare delivery and medical transportation systems
From: Carol A. Cunningham, M.D., FAAEM, FAEMS
State Medical Director, Ohio Department of Public Safety, Division of EMS
Date: November 1, 2017
RE: Amendments in the Ohio EMS scope of practice

On October 18, 2017, the State Board of Ohio Emergency Medical, Fire, and Transportation Services (EMFTS Board) made the following amendments to the Ohio EMS scope of practice:

1. Emergency medical responders (EMRs (formerly First Responders)) may apply and obtain readings from CO-oximeters.
2. Ketamine has been added to the list of medications approved for administration by advanced emergency medical technicians (AEMTs (formerly EMT-Intermediates)).

In addition to these amendments, the concentration of epinephrine 1:1,000 will now be listed as epinephrine 1 milligram per 1 milliliter (1 mg/1ml). This action is due to a national patient safety initiative impacting all healthcare sectors, including pharmaceutical manufacturers, in an effort to reduce medication administration errors. Of note, the national recommendation is to refer to epinephrine 1:10,000 as epinephrine 0.1 milligram per 1 milliliter (0.1 mg/1 ml).

Analogous with all elements of the Ohio EMS scope of practice, authorization from the EMS medical director, who must meet the qualifications cited in the Ohio Administrative Code 4765-3-05, is required. In addition, the EMS medical director must provide a written protocol, training, continuing education, and a quality assurance program prior to the performance of these patient care measures by certified Ohio EMS providers. While the associated regulatory language and education curricula are being developed, these amendments in the Ohio EMS scope of practice became **effective October 18, 2017**.

As a resource to all parties involved, an updated Ohio EMS scope of practice matrix that reflects the EMFTS Board's amendments is now available on the Ohio

Mission Statement

"to save lives, reduce injuries and economic loss, to administer Ohio's motor vehicle laws and to preserve the safety and well being of all citizens with the most cost-effective and service-oriented methods available."

Department of Public Safety, Division of EMS website at http://www.publicsafety.ohio.gov/links/ems_scope_practice.pdf. While this matrix

provides a brief synopsis, I strongly encourage you to review the citations in chapter 4765 of the Ohio Revised Code and the upcoming revised Ohio Administrative Code for complete information regarding the Ohio EMS scope of practice.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me or a member of our staff at the Ohio Department of Public Safety, Division of EMS at (800) 233-0785. As always, thank you for your dedicated service to the residents and visitors of Ohio and to Ohio EMS!