

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.



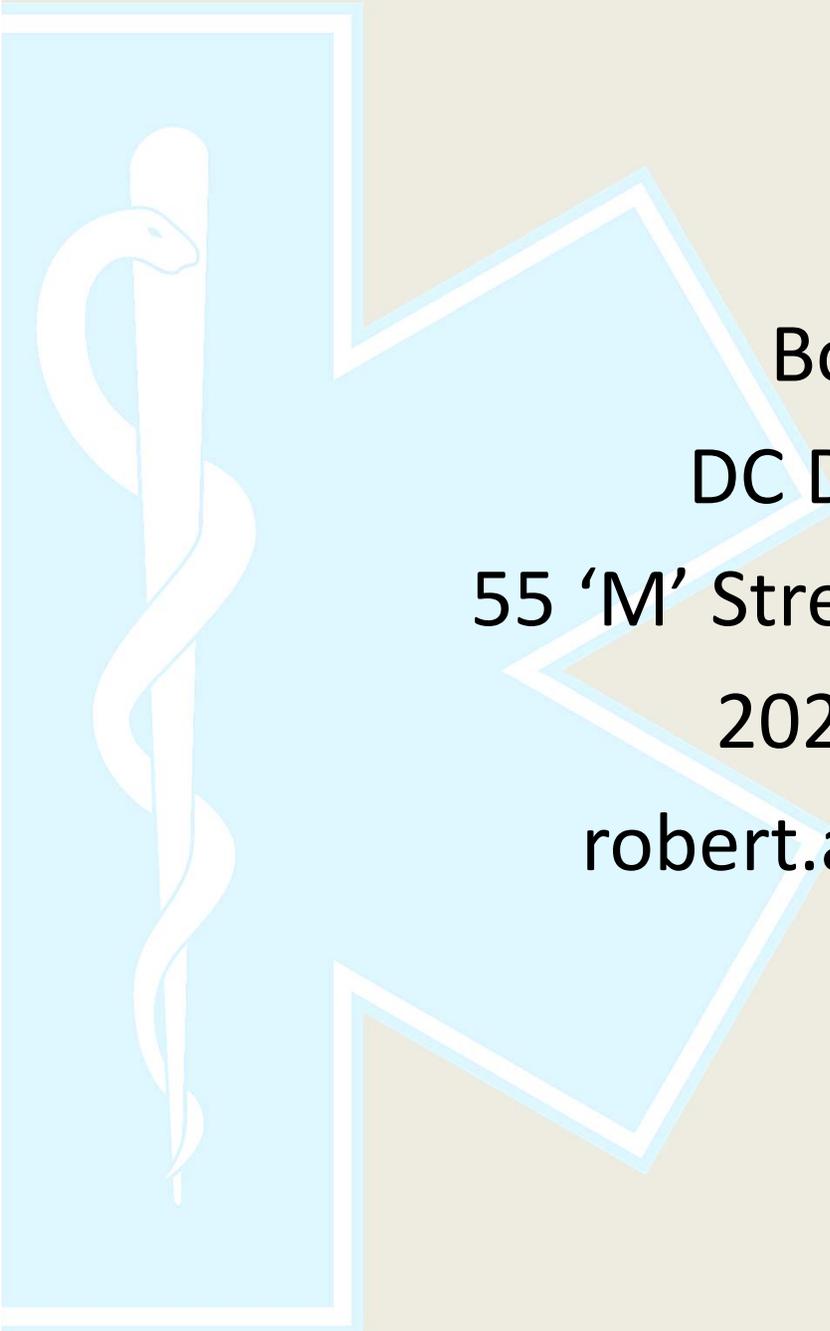
Regulation Improvement

- 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





Bob Austin

DC DOH-HEPRA

55 'M' Street, SE – Suite 300

202-671-4222

robert.austin@dc.gov

