

OREGON ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

CHAPTER 847, DIVISION 035 – OREGON MEDICAL BOARD

PROPOSED RULES CHANGES – APRIL 2009

FINAL REVIEW BY THE BOARD

Rules changes propose three changes to the EMT-P scope of practice

847-035-0030

Scope of Practice

(1) The Oregon Medical Board has established a scope of practice for emergency and nonemergency care for First Responders and EMTs. First Responders and EMTs may provide emergency and nonemergency care in the course of providing prehospital care as an incident of the operation of ambulance and as incidents of other public or private safety duties, but is not limited to "emergency care" as defined in OAR 847-035-0001 (5).

(2) The scope of practice for First Responders and EMTs is not intended as statewide standing orders or protocols. The scope of practice is the maximum functions which may be assigned to a First Responder or EMT by a Board-approved supervising physician.

(3) Supervising physicians may not assign functions exceeding the scope of practice; however, they may limit the functions within the scope at their discretion.

(4) Standing orders for an individual EMT may be requested by the Board or Section and shall be furnished upon request.

(5) No EMT may function without assigned standing orders issued by Board-approved supervising physician.

(6) An Oregon-certified First Responder or EMT, acting through standing orders, shall respect the patient's wishes including life-sustaining treatments. Physician supervised First Responders and

EMTs shall request and honor life-sustaining treatment orders executed by a physician, nurse practitioner or physician assistant if available. A patient with life-sustaining treatment orders always requires respect, comfort and hygienic care.

(7) The scope of practice for emergency and nonemergency care established by the Board for First Responders is intended as authorization for performance of procedures by First Responders without direction from a Board-approved supervising physician, except as limited by subsection (2) of this rule. A First Responder may perform the following emergency care procedures without having signed standing orders from a supervising physician:

- (a) Conduct primary and secondary patient examinations;
- (b) Take and record vital signs;
- (c) Utilize noninvasive diagnostic devices in accordance with manufacturer's recommendation;
- (d) Open and maintain an airway by positioning the patient's head;
- (e) Provide external cardiopulmonary resuscitation and obstructed airway care for infants, children, and adults;
- (f) Provide care for soft tissue injuries;
- (g) Provide care for suspected fractures;
- (h) Assist with prehospital childbirth; and
- (i) Complete a clear and accurate prehospital emergency care report form on all patient contacts and provide a copy of that report to the senior EMT with the transporting ambulance.

(8) A First Responder may perform the following procedures only when the First Responder is providing emergency care as part of an agency which has a Board-approved supervising physician who has issued written standing orders to that First Responder authorizing the following:

- (a) Administration of medical oxygen;

(b) Open and maintain an airway through the use of a nasopharyngeal and a noncuffed oropharyngeal and pharyngeal suctioning devices;

(c) Operate a bag mask ventilation device with reservoir;

(d) Provision of care for suspected medical emergencies, including administering liquid oral glucose for hypoglycemia; and

(e) Administer epinephrine by automatic injection device for anaphylaxis;

(f) Perform cardiac defibrillation with an automatic or semi-automatic defibrillator, only when the First Responder:

(A) Has successfully completed a Section-approved course of instruction in the use of the automatic or semi-automatic defibrillator; and

(B) Complies with the periodic requalification requirements for automatic or semi-automatic defibrillator as established by the Section.

(9) An Oregon-certified EMT-Basic may perform emergency and nonemergency procedures. Emergency care procedures shall be limited to the following basic life support procedures:

(a) Perform all procedures that an Oregon-certified First Responder can perform;

(b) Ventilate with a non-invasive positive pressure delivery device;

(c) Insert a cuffed pharyngeal airway device in the practice of airway maintenance. A cuffed pharyngeal airway device is:

(A) A single lumen airway device designed for blind insertion into the esophagus providing airway protection where the cuffed tube prevents gastric contents from entering the pharyngeal space;

or

(B) A multi-lumen airway device designed to function either as the single lumen device when placed in the esophagus, or by insertion into the trachea where the distal cuff creates an endotracheal seal around the ventilatory tube preventing aspiration of gastric contents.

(d) Provide external cardiopulmonary resuscitation and obstructed airway care for infants, children, and adults;

(e) Provide care for suspected shock, including the use of the pneumatic anti-shock garment;

(f) Provide care for suspected medical emergencies, including:

(A) Obtaining a capillary blood specimen for blood glucose monitoring;

(B) Administer epinephrine by subcutaneous injection or automatic injection device for anaphylaxis;

(C) Administer activated charcoal for poisonings; and

(D) Administer aspirin for suspected myocardial infarction.

(g) Perform cardiac defibrillation with an automatic or semi-automatic defibrillator;

(h) Transport stable patients with saline locks, heparin locks, foley catheters, or in-dwelling vascular devices;

(i) Perform other emergency tasks as requested if under the direct visual supervision of a physician and then only under the order of that physician;

(j) Complete a clear and accurate prehospital emergency care report form on all patient contacts;

(k) Assist a patient with administration of sublingual nitroglycerine tablets or spray and with metered dose inhalers that have been previously prescribed by that patient's personal physician and that are in the possession of the patient at the time the EMT-Basic is summoned to assist that patient; and

(l) In the event of a release of military chemical warfare agents from the Umatilla Army Depot, the EMT-Basic who is a member or employee of an EMS agency serving the DOD-designated Immediate Response Zone who has completed a Section-approved training program may administer atropine sulfate and pralidoxime chloride from a Section-approved pre-loaded auto-injector device, and perform endotracheal intubation, using protocols promulgated by the Section and adopted by the

supervising physician. 100% of EMT-Basic actions taken pursuant to this section shall be reported to the Section via a copy of the prehospital emergency care report and shall be reviewed for appropriateness by Section staff and the Subcommittee on EMT Certification, Education and Discipline.

(m) In the event of a release of organophosphate agents the EMT-Basic, who has completed Section-approved training, may administer atropine sulfate and pralidoxime chloride by autoinjector, using protocols approved by the Section and adopted by the supervising physician.

(10) An Oregon-certified EMT-Intermediate may perform emergency and nonemergency care procedures. The emergency care procedures shall be limited to the following:

(a) Perform all procedures that an Oregon-certified EMT-Basic can perform;

(b) Initiate and maintain peripheral intravenous (I.V.) lines;

(c) Initiate and maintain an intraosseous infusion;

(d) Initiate saline or similar locks;

(e) Draw peripheral blood specimens;

(f) Administer the following medications under specific written protocols authorized by the supervising physician, or direct orders from a licensed physician:

(A) Physiologic isotonic crystalloid solution.

(B) Vasoconstrictors:

(i) Epinephrine

(ii) Vasopressin;

(C) Antiarrhythmics:

(i) Atropine sulfate,

(ii) Lidocaine,

(iii) Amiodarone;

(D) Antidotes:

(i) Naloxone hydrochloride;

(E) Antihypoglycemics:

(i) Hypertonic glucose,

(ii) Glucagon;

(F) Vasodilators:

(i) Nitroglycerine;

(G) Nebulized bronchodilators:

(i) Albuterol,

(ii) Ipratropium bromide;

(H) Analgesics for acute pain:

(i) Morphine,

(ii) Nalbuphine Hydrochloride,

(iii) Ketorolac tromethamine,

(iv) Fentanyl;

(I) Antihistamine:

(i) Diphenhydramine;

(J) Diuretic:

(i) Furosemide;

(K) Intraosseous infusion anesthetic;

(i) Lidocaine;

(g) Administer immunizations in the event of an outbreak or epidemic as declared by the Governor of the state of Oregon, the State Public Health Officer or a county health officer, as part of an emergency immunization program, under the agency's supervising physician's standing order;

(h) Administer routine or emergency immunizations, as part of an EMS Agency's occupational health program, to the EMT's EMS agency personnel, under the supervising physician's standing order.

(i) Insert an orogastric tube;

(j) Maintain during transport any intravenous medication infusions or other procedures which were initiated in a medical facility, and if clear and understandable written and verbal instructions for such maintenance have been provided by the physician, nurse practitioner or physician assistant at the sending medical facility;

(k) Initiate electrocardiographic monitoring and interpret presenting rhythm;

(l) Perform cardiac defibrillation with a manual defibrillator.

(11) An Oregon-certified EMT-Paramedic may perform emergency and nonemergency care procedures. The emergency care procedures shall be limited to:

(a) Perform all procedures that an Oregon-certified EMT-Intermediate can perform;

(b) Initiate the following airway management techniques:

(A) Endotracheal intubation;

(B) Tracheal suctioning techniques;

(C) Cricothyrotomy; and

(D) Transtracheal jet insufflation which may be used when no other mechanism is available for establishing an airway.

(c) Initiate a nasogastric tube;

(d) Provide advanced life support in the resuscitation of patients in cardiac arrest;

(e) Perform emergency cardioversion in the compromised patient;

(f) Attempt external transcutaneous pacing of bradycardia that is causing hemodynamic compromise;

(g) Initiate needle thoracentesis for tension pneumothorax in a prehospital setting;

(h) [~~Initiate placement of a femoral intravenous line when a peripheral line cannot be placed~~]

Access indwelling catheters and implanted central IV ports for fluid and medication administration;

(i) Initiate placement of a urinary catheter for trauma patients in a prehospital setting who have received diuretics and where the transport time is greater than thirty minutes; and

(j) Initiate or administer any medications or blood products under specific written protocols authorized by the supervising physician, or direct orders from a licensed physician **providing that the EMT-P has had adequate and appropriate instruction, including the risks, benefits, and use of the medication or blood product.**

(k) Initiate multi-lead electrocardiograms.

(12) The Board has delegated to the Section the following responsibilities for ensuring that these rules are adhered to:

(a) Designing the supervising physician and agent application;

(b) Approving a supervising physician or agent; and

(c) Investigating and disciplining any EMT or First Responder who violates their scope of practice.

(d) The Section shall provide copies of any supervising physician or agent applications and any EMT or First Responder disciplinary action reports to the Board upon their request.

(13) The Section shall immediately notify the Board when questions arise regarding the qualifications or responsibilities of the supervising physician or agent of the supervising physician.