



Iowa Department of Public Health

October 27, 2008

FACT SHEET **Scope of Practice** for **Emergency Medical Service Providers**

History

- In 2000, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) published the *EMS Education Agenda for the Future: A Systems Approach*, identifying the national scope of practice as one of five components leading to a quality and consistent EMS system.
- In September 2004, the first draft of the National Scope of Practice Model was released for public comment. Iowa organizations providing comments included:
 - EMS Advisory Council (EMSAC)
 - Iowa EMS Association
 - Iowa EMS Training Program Directors (19 Training Programs)
- In 2006, the Institute of Medicine released its report, *Emergency Medical Services at the Crossroads*, recommending that, "state governments adopt a common scope of practice for EMS personnel."
- In 2007, the NHTSA released the final version of National Scope of Practice Model.

EMSAC Address Scope of Practice in Iowa

- EMSAC developed the State's current scope of practice in 2000
- The National Scope of Practice Model has been discussed by the council since the release of the 2004 draft
- October 2005, the National Scope of Practice Model was identified by the council as a good option for Iowa EMS
- January 2008, possible implementation strategies, along with implications of not adopting the National Scope of Practice, were presented by the Bureau of EMS to the council. The council requested that the Bureau develop documents explaining the options and collect public comments for review at the July 2008 council meeting.
- July 2008, the council reviewed public comments and held open discussion at the meeting. The council then made a unanimous recommendation that the National Scope of Practice Model be adopted and that the current levels of EMS providers be transitioned to the four levels identified in the model.

Next Steps to be taken

- September 2008, National Association of State EMS Officials developing implementation timeline
- Early 2009, NHTSA approval of Education Standards
 - After approval of standards, transition course development can begin
- Fall, 2009, begin development of administrative rules by the Bureau of EMS with the goal for adoption of Fall 2010
- Fall 2010, textbooks and resources become available.
- Fall 2011, implementation of new Education Standards, Iowa to begin transition
 - 2014 Transition of FR, EMT-B, EMT-I and PS completed
 - 2016 or 2018 transition of EMT-P completed
- Ongoing until implementation, Iowa's EMSAC to review skills provided at each provider level

Provider Transition Options

Most providers will only need to meet continuing education requirements to transition to a new level. However, providers seeking to be an Advanced EMT or Paramedic under the new model will need to meet continuing education and testing requirements.

| Current Certification Levels | Transition Level | Transition Requirements |
|---|--|--|
| First Responder <i>Classroom Hours: 50-60</i> <i>Renewal Hours: 12</i> | Emergency Medical Responder <i>Training Hours: *</i> <i>Renewal Hours: *</i> | Continuing Education* |
| EMT-Basic <i>Classroom Hours: 120-130</i> <i>Renewal Hours: 24</i> | Emergency Medical Technician <i>Training Hours: *</i> <i>Renewal Hours: *</i> | Continuing Education* |
| EMT-Intermediate <i>Classroom Hours: 54-60</i> <i>Renewal Hours: 36</i> | Emergency Medical Technician <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> Advanced EMT <i>Training Hours: *</i> <i>Renewal Hours: *</i> | No expected requirements Continuing Education* Testing** |
| EMT-Paramedic <i>(Iowa Paramedic)</i> <i>Classroom Hours: 280-310</i> <i>Renewal Hours: 48</i> | Advanced EMT <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> Paramedic <i>Training Hours: *</i> <i>Renewal Hours: *</i> | No expected requirements Continuing Education* Testing** |
| Paramedic Specialist <i>(National Paramedic)</i> <i>Classroom Hours: 600-660</i> <i>Renewal Hours: 60</i> | Paramedic | Continuing Education* |

* Development of transition will not begin until Education Standards are approved in 2009

** Testing will be the National Registry computer-based exam

Certified Provider in Iowa

| | FR | EMT-B | EMT-I | EMT-P | PS | Total |
|----------------------------|-----------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-----------|--------------|
| Certified (Jul 1, 2008) | 1994 | 6773 | 1028 | 589 | 1872 | 12,256 |
| *Rostered (Sep 9, 2008) | 1465 | 4969 | 854 | 463 | 1478 | 9,229 |

* Rostered means a providers is recorded as currently practicing