



TO: All EMS Providers
All EMS Agencies
All Agency Medical Directors
All Medical Command Facilities

FROM: Carl L. Moen, Executive Director

DATE: September 10, 2021

SUBJECT: 2021 PA DOH Statewide Protocol Update

Attached are copies of EMS Information Bulletin 2021-014: 2021 PA DOH Statewide Protocol Update, the 2021 Basic Life Support (BLS), Advanced Life Support (ALS) and Critical Care Transport (CCT) Statewide Protocols. These protocols have undergone an extensive review and are based on the latest scientific evidence.

The protocols are being released with a mandatory implementation date of November 1, 2021.

The updated Scope of Practice, Air Ambulance Scope of Practice, Critical Care Transport (CCT Scope of Practice, Required Ground and Air Equipment and Approved and Required Medications associated with these protocols will be published in the [Pennsylvania Bulletin](#) on September 11, 2021.

Prior to November 1, 2021, the following steps should be taken:

1) All active EMS providers affiliated with an EMS agency shall attend an approved educational session on the protocol updates

- a) Providers at or below the level of AEMT will need to take an approved educational session on the BLS protocols.
- b) Providers above the level of AEMT will need to take both the approved BLS and the approved ALS educational sessions.
- c) All EMS providers will also need to take the 2021 Traumatic Brain Injury Protocol Update Course that will be available soon.

2) Agency Medical Directors will need to determine what educational programs they will make available to their providers:

- a) Agency Medical Directors may present the educational programs utilizing the PowerPoint presentation provided by the Bureau of EMS.

- b) Agency Medical Directors may designate an experienced provider from their agency to conduct the educational program for their providers.
 - i) If an agency medical director designates a provider from the EMS Agency to provide the education program the agency medical director must verify to our office that they have authorized that provider to conduct the educational program using the DOH PowerPoints.
 - ii) The provider conducting the education must be certified at or above the level of the protocol on which they are teaching. (ALS protocol education must be conducted by a paramedic or above).
 - c) Agency Medical Directors may permit their providers to take the protocol education programs that are available on [TRAIN PA](#).
- 3) Agency Medical Directors will need to review the protocols and determine if they will be adding any optional skills or medications to the agencies for which they are responsible.**
- a) If new optional medications or procedures are added, the agency medical director will need to ensure that their personnel are appropriately educated and verify the competency of the providers in the use of those items.
 - b) Once education is complete the agency medical director will need to update their medical director verification form to include the additional items and submit that form to the Southern Alleghenies EMS Council office.
- 4) Agency Medical Directors may request a copy of the PowerPoint presentations by contacting Rachelle Tippery at rtippery@saems.com.**
- a) Educational PowerPoints will only be distributed to nonphysicians with the written approval of the agency medical director.
 - b) Any courses conducted by an agency medical director or their designee should be registered for continuing education,

The updated protocols and regulatory documents will be posted to [our website](#) within a couple of days and will also be available on the [Bureau of EMS website](#).

Finally, as a reminder, all providers at or above the level of AEMT have an expiration date of December 31, 2021. Please encourage providers to review and complete their continuing education requirements as soon as possible, login to the EMS Registry and complete their application for renewal to ensure that they recertify well in advance of their expiration date.

If you should have any questions, or need additional information, please contact our office.