



TEMPORARY ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
INCLUDING STATEMENT OF NEED & JUSTIFICATION

OMB 4-2021
CHAPTER 847
OREGON MEDICAL BOARD

FILED

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ARCHIVES DIVISION
SECRETARY OF STATE
& LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

FILING CAPTION: EMTs, Advanced EMTs, EMT Intermediates, and Paramedics to prepare and administer COVID-19 immunizations

EFFECTIVE DATE: 06/15/2021 THROUGH 12/11/2021

AGENCY APPROVED DATE: 06/15/2021

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NEED FOR THE RULE(S):

On April 1, 2020, the Oregon Medical Board adopted a temporary rule and subsequently permanently adopted a rule to provide flexibility in the scope of practice for emergency medical services (EMS) providers during a declared emergency, see OAR 847-035-0032. The State of Oregon EMS Medical Director has used this authority several times during the COVID-19 declared emergency to make emergency EMS scope of practice changes. The temporary rule aligns with the EMS Medical Director protocol dated May 26, 2021, allowing Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) and higher to prepare and administer COVID-19 immunizations under the direction of their supervising physician and within the agency's supervising physician's standing order.

Once the declared emergency ends in Oregon, emergency scope of practice changes will no longer be valid. However, the need for specified EMS providers to prepare and administer COVID-19 immunizations will continue. Based upon the needs of the community and health care systems, the temporary rule is needed to allow EMTs and higher to prepare and administer COVID-19 immunizations as specified. The temporary rule upholds the Oregon Medical Board's mission to protect the health, safety, and wellbeing of Oregon citizens by allowing specified EMS providers to prepare and administer COVID-19 immunizations to aid efforts to stop the COVID-19 pandemic.

JUSTIFICATION OF TEMPORARY FILING:

EMS providers are uniquely situated to provide medical assistance in the community. Failure to immediately adopt the rule would return EMS providers, once the emergency ends, to the limits on their scope of practice prior to April 1, 2020, not allowing them to prepare and administer COVID-19 immunizations. The public would suffer these consequences. The temporary rule mitigates those consequences by allowing specified EMS providers to continue preparing and administering COVID-19 immunizations as currently allowed under the EMS Medical Director protocol. The Oregon Medical Board finds that failure to act promptly will result in serious prejudice to the public interest by not allowing specified EMS providers to assist with the efforts to help stop the COVID-19 pandemic.

DOCUMENTS RELIED UPON, AND WHERE THEY ARE AVAILABLE:

ORS 682.245, https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/bills_laws/ors/ors682.html

AMEND: 847-035-0030

RULE TITLE: Scope of Practice

RULE SUMMARY: The temporary rule aligns with the State of Oregon EMS Medical Director protocol dated May 26, 2021, allowing Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT), Advanced EMTs, EMT Intermediates, and Paramedics to prepare and administer COVID-19 immunizations to prepare and administer COVID-19 immunizations under the direction of their supervising physician and within the agency's supervising physician's standing order.

RULE TEXT:

- (1) The Oregon Medical Board has established a scope of practice for emergency and nonemergency care for emergency medical services providers. Emergency medical services providers 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.
- (2) The scope of practice for emergency medical services providers is the maximum functions which may be assigned to an emergency medical services provider by a Board-approved supervising physician. The scope of practice is not a set of statewide standing orders, protocols, or curriculum.
- (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 emergency medical services provider may be requested by the Board or Authority and must be furnished upon request.
- (5) An emergency medical services provider, including an Emergency Medical Responder, may not function without assigned standing orders issued by a Board-approved supervising physician.
- (6) An emergency medical services provider, acting through standing orders, must respect the patient's wishes including life-sustaining treatments. Physician-supervised emergency medical services providers must request and honor life-sustaining treatment orders executed pursuant to ORS 127.663 through 127.684 if available. A patient with life-sustaining treatment orders always requires respect, comfort and hygienic care.
- (7) Whenever possible, medications should be prepared by the emergency medical services provider who will administer the medication to the patient.
- (8) An Emergency Medical Responder may:
 - (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 musculoskeletal injuries;
 - (g) Provide hemorrhage control;
 - (h) Provide emergency moves for endangered patients;
 - (i) Assist with prehospital childbirth;
 - (j) Complete a clear and accurate prehospital emergency care report form on all patient contacts and provide a copy of that report to the senior emergency medical services provider with the transporting ambulance;
 - (k) Administer medical oxygen;
 - (L) Maintain an open airway through the use of:

- (A) A nasopharyngeal airway device;
 - (B) An oropharyngeal airway device;
 - (C) A pharyngeal suctioning device;
 - (m) Operate a bag mask ventilation device with reservoir;
 - (n) Provide care for suspected medical emergencies, including administering liquid oral glucose for hypoglycemia;
 - (o) Prepare and administer aspirin by mouth for suspected myocardial infarction (MI) in patients with no known history of allergy to aspirin or recent gastrointestinal bleed;
 - (p) Prepare and administer epinephrine by automatic injection device for anaphylaxis;
 - (q) Prepare and administer naloxone via intranasal device or auto-injector for suspected opioid overdose;
 - (r) Perform cardiac defibrillation with an automated external defibrillator; and
 - (s) Perform other emergency tasks as requested if under the direct visual supervision of a physician and then only under the order of that physician.
- (9) An Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) may:
- (a) Perform all procedures that an Emergency Medical Responder may perform;
 - (b) Ventilate with a non-invasive manual or continuous positive pressure delivery device;
 - (c) Insert a supraglottic airway device to facilitate ventilation through the glottic opening by displacing tissue and sealing of the laryngeal area;
 - (d) Perform tracheobronchial tube suctioning;
 - (e) Provide care for suspected shock;
 - (f) Provide care for suspected medical emergencies, including:
 - (A) Obtain a capillary blood specimen for blood glucose monitoring;
 - (B) Prepare and administer epinephrine for anaphylaxis;
 - (C) Administer activated charcoal for poisonings; and
 - (D) Prepare and administer nebulized and metered dose albuterol with or without ipratropium for known asthmatic and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) patients suffering from suspected bronchospasm.
 - (g) Transport stable patients with saline locks, heparin locks, foley catheters, or in-dwelling vascular devices;
 - (h) Assist the on-scene Advanced EMT, EMT-Intermediate, or Paramedic by:
 - (A) Assembling and priming IV fluid administration sets; and
 - (B) Opening, assembling and uncapping preloaded medication syringes and vials;
 - (i) Complete a clear and accurate prehospital emergency care report form on all patient contacts;
 - (j) 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 is summoned to assist that patient;
 - (k) In the event of a release of organophosphate agents, the EMT who has completed Authority-approved training may prepare and administer atropine sulfate and pralidoxime chloride by autoinjector, using protocols approved by the Authority and adopted by the supervising physician;
 - (L) In the event of a declared Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) as defined in the local Mass Casualty Incident plan, monitor patients who have isotonic intravenous fluids flowing;
 - (m) Administer over-the-counter medications in unit dose packaging for immediate use under specific written protocols authorized by the supervising physician or direct orders from a licensed physician;
 - (n) Acquire and transmit cardiac monitoring and electrocardiogram (ECG); and
 - (o) Prepare and administer COVID-19 immunizations:
 - (A) According to the CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and/or the Oregon State Public Health Officer's recommended immunization guidelines;
 - (B) As directed by the agency's supervising physician's standing order;
 - (C) Under the direction of their supervising physician; and
 - (D) Prior to vaccine administration, the EMT must be trained by the supervising physician or their designee. The EMT

and the EMS agency or employer must maintain records of training.

(10) An Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT) may:

- (a) Perform all procedures that an EMT may perform;
- (b) Initiate and maintain peripheral intravenous (I.V.) lines;
- (c) Initiate saline or similar locks;
- (d) Obtain peripheral venous blood specimens;
- (e) Initiate and maintain an intraosseous infusion; and
- (f) Prepare and administer the following medications under specific written protocols authorized by the supervising physician or direct orders from a licensed physician:
 - (A) Analgesics for acute pain: nitrous oxide.
 - (B) Anaphylaxis: epinephrine;
 - (C) Hypoglycemia reversal agents:
 - (i) Hypertonic dextrose;
 - (ii) Glucagon;
 - (D) Intraosseous infusion anesthetic: Lidocaine;
 - (E) Bronchodilators:
 - (i) Albuterol;
 - (ii) Ipratropium bromide;
 - (F) Vasodilators: nitroglycerine;
 - (G) Opioid antagonists: naloxone; and
 - (H) Isotonic crystalloid solutions.

(11) An EMT-Intermediate may:

- (a) Perform all procedures that an Advanced EMT may perform;
- (b) Prepare and administer the following medications under specific written protocols authorized by the supervising physician, or direct orders from a licensed physician:
 - (A) Vasoactive medications:
 - (i) Epinephrine;
 - (ii) Vasopressin;
 - (B) Antiarrhythmics:
 - (i) Atropine sulfate;
 - (ii) Lidocaine;
 - (iii) Amiodarone;
 - (C) Analgesics for acute pain:
 - (i) Morphine;
 - (ii) Ketorolac tromethamine;
 - (iii) Fentanyl;
 - (D) Antihistamine: Diphenhydramine;
 - (E) Diuretic: Furosemide;
 - (F) Anti-Emetic: Ondansetron;
- (c) Prepare and 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;
- (d) Prepare and administer immunizations for seasonal and pandemic influenza vaccinations according to the CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), and/or the Oregon State Public Health Officer's recommended immunization guidelines as directed by the agency's supervising physician's standing order;
- (e) Distribute medications at the direction of the Oregon State Public Health Officer as a component of a mass distribution effort;

- (f) Prepare and administer routine or emergency immunizations and tuberculosis skin testing, as part of an EMS Agency's occupational health program, to the EMT-Intermediate's EMS agency personnel, under the supervising physician's standing order;
- (g) Insert an orogastric tube;
- (h) Maintain during transport any intravenous medication infusions or other procedures which were initiated in a medical facility, 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;
- (i) Perform electrocardiographic rhythm interpretation; and
- (j) Perform cardiac defibrillation with a manual defibrillator.

(12) A Paramedic may:

- (a) Perform all procedures that an EMT-Intermediate may perform;
- (b) Initiate and maintain mechanical ventilation during transport if formally trained on the particular equipment and if acting under written protocols specific to the particular equipment;
- (c) Initiate the following airway management techniques:
 - (A) Endotracheal intubation;
 - (B) Cricothyrotomy; and
 - (C) Transtracheal jet insufflation which may be used when no other mechanism is available for establishing an airway;
- (d) Initiate a nasogastric tube;
- (e) Provide advanced life support in the resuscitation of patients in cardiac arrest;
- (f) Perform emergency cardioversion in the compromised patient;
- (g) Transcutaneous pacing of bradycardia that is causing hemodynamic compromise;
- (h) Initiate needle thoracostomy for tension pneumothorax;
- (i) Obtain peripheral arterial blood specimens under specific written protocols authorized by the supervising physician;
- (j) Access indwelling catheters and implanted central IV ports for fluid and medication administration;
- (k) Initiate and maintain urinary catheters under specific written protocols authorized by the supervising physician or under direct orders from a licensed physician;
- (L) Prepare and initiate or administer any medications or blood products under specific written protocols authorized by the supervising physician or under direct orders from a licensed physician; and
- (m) Interpret electrocardiogram (ECG).

STATUTORY/OTHER AUTHORITY: ORS 682.245

STATUTES/OTHER IMPLEMENTED: ORS 682.245, ORS 127.663, ORS 127.666