

Final Amendments to 105 CMR 170.000
EMS System Regulations
For Paramedic Ambulance Staffing Requirements

Deletions are ~~stricken~~.

Additions are underlined.

105 CMR 170.305: Staffing

(C) (2) When a Class I, II or V ambulance transports a patient receiving care at the Paramedic level of ALS, the ambulance must be staffed with a minimum of two EMTs, at least one of whom is certified at the EMT-Paramedic level, provided that the conditions set forth in 105 CMR 170.305(C)(2)(a) through (f) are met. For ambulance transports of patients receiving care at the Paramedic level in which the conditions set forth in 105 CMR 170.305(C)(2)(a) through (f) are not met, the ambulance must be staffed with a minimum of two EMTs, both of whom are certified at the EMT-Paramedic level.

(a) The ambulance service's dispatching entity must implement emergency medical dispatch (EMD) in accordance with State 911 Department standards, or otherwise have policies in place, provided by the ambulance service as approved by its affiliate hospital medical director, for screening of calls requesting an ambulance for patient acuity, to ensure dispatch of appropriate EMS staff;

(b) The ambulance service must implement criteria, approved by its affiliate hospital medical director and in accordance with administrative requirements of the Department, for determining those EMS calls when two EMT-Paramedics would be required to provide appropriate care, based on the patient's medical condition and acuity;

(c) The ambulance service must implement a procedure, in accordance with administrative requirements of the Department, to ensure a second EMT-Paramedic is immediately dispatched ~~in a timely manner~~ if the EMTs determine appropriate care of the patient's medical condition and needs requires a second EMT-Paramedic;

(d) The ambulance service must provide appropriate training, in accordance with administrative requirements of the Department, including orientation and mentoring to its EMTs who work in EMT-Paramedic/Basic or EMT-Paramedic/Intermediate staffing configurations, so that each EMT understands his/her role, consistent with his/her certification level, in caring for patients receiving paramedic-level care;

(e) The ambulance service, in conjunction with its affiliate hospital medical director and in accordance with administrative requirements of the Department, must establish minimum experience levels and skill competencies for each of its EMT-Paramedics, EMT-Intermediates and EMT-Basics working in EMT-Paramedic/Basic or EMT-Paramedic/Intermediate staffing configurations, as assessed by the affiliate hospital medical director, which shall include having had previous experience caring for emergency patients while working at their current levels of EMT certification on an ambulance;

(f) The ambulance service must ensure that all paramedic-level responses staffed by EMTs who work in a EMT-Paramedic/Basic and EMT-Paramedic/Intermediate staffing configurations are reviewed through an effective quality assurance/quality improvement (QA/QI) program ~~coordinated by the affiliate hospital medical director and~~

~~with participation of on-line medical direction physician(s) and service medical director, if different from the affiliate hospital medical director~~ the quality assurance/quality improvement (QA/QI) program under the service's affiliation agreement, pursuant to 105 CMR 170.300(A)(4).