


Title: Off Duty Paramedic Practice & Special Events	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Procedure	<input type="checkbox"/> SOP
Category: Medical Control Dept/Prog/Service: Base Hospital Program	Distribution: NW Region Ambulance Operators & Paramedics		
Approved: Program Medical Director & Program Manager Signature: 	Approval Date: August 2004		Reviewed/Revised Date: May 2017

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to provide direction to Paramedics in their clinical practice while:

- i. Off duty in general, OR
- ii. While at special events, AND
- iii. It should clarify what is expected of the Service Provider/DSAB when providing coverage of any special event, with or without public service being provided.

2. POLICY STATEMENT

The paramedic must be on duty as an employee of a licensed ambulance service when providing any advanced life support care to any patient within Ontario to be covered by their respective Base Hospital Program Medical Director's License.

3. DEFINITIONS

- i. Paramedic: as defined in subsection 1(1) of the Ambulation Act Ontario Regulation 257/00
- ii. Primary Care Paramedic (PCP): as defined in subsection 8 (1) of the Ambulation Act Ontario Regulation 257/00
- iii. Advanced Care Paramedics (ACP): defined in subsection 8 (2) of the Ambulation Act Ontario Regulation 257/00

4. PROCEDURE

I. OFF DUTY

Primary Care and Advanced Care Paramedics who work under the jurisdiction of the Thunder Bay Regional HSC Base Hospital Program have medical clearance to perform controlled acts only in the context of their employment with a licensed service provider. Paramedics have no medical delegation or authority to perform controlled acts as a bystander, a firefighter, a first responder or in any other job capacity when they are off duty.

The Base Hospital does not support the practice of paramedics carrying ALS equipment or supplies in their own vehicles. The Base Hospital does not support the practice of paramedics carrying ALS equipment or supplies for potential use when the paramedic works in the capacity of a firefighter, any other first responder capacity when off duty.

IN ALL INSTANCES WHILE OFF DUTY AN EMA OR PARAMEDIC MAY NOT PERFORM CONTROLLED ACTS AND WILL HAVE NO AUTHORITY TO UTILIZE THEIR ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT SKILLS OR EQUIPMENT.

II. SPECIAL EVENTS

NON EMPLOYER APPROVED

When a Paramedic is hired by a special event agency that is not contracted through a licensed ambulance service, they are providing independent service contract (volunteer or paid it does not matter) and are not covered by the Medical Director of their Base Hospital to provide controlled acts.

EMPLOYER APPROVED – WITH PUBLIC SERVICE

When a Paramedic is asked by their employer (a licensed ambulance service operator within Ontario) to provide service at a special event, but, the ambulance is still available to attend any call in the service's catchment area that CACC dispatches them to, the Paramedic is covered by the Base Hospital to provide the controlled acts that they are certified in.

In this case the EMA/Paramedic is providing the day to day activity of the usual ambulance service operations, but has received authorization from their employer to provide the special event coverage as well. The paramedics are covered by Base Hospital in their full scope of practice as an employee of the ambulance service.

EMPLOYER APPROVED – NO PUBLIC SERVICE

When a Paramedic is asked by their employer to provide service at an event, but, the ambulance is not available to be dispatched on any other calls, that is, an organization has requested the ambulance for sole coverage of their event (paid or not), the paramedics are not covered by Base Hospital to provide any controlled medical acts.

The Ambulance Service Provider must contact the Base Hospital Program Medical Director with respect to contracting a medical director to delegate any controlled acts during this type special event coverage. Special events with no public service being offered require separate coverage from the Program Medical Director's license as they do not fall under the day to day operations of the ambulance service.

III. NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Service Delivery Agents/Service Operators are required to provide notice to the Base Hospital Program Manager and Medical Director of any special events that they will be covering: including, the name(s) of the paramedic(s) that will be in attendance, and the scope of their duties, and medical director responsible (if appropriate). Failure to inform the Base Hospital of any special events assignment implies that the paramedic will not be providing controlled acts at the event, and they will certainly not be covered by the Base Hospital if they do so.

Special events where no public service will be offered outside of the event itself require separate coverage of the medical director's license. This is an added responsibility for the medical director. Therefore, a request for medical director coverage during a special event of this nature must be received by the Program Medical Director in writing at minimum two weeks prior to the special event.

It is the sole responsibility of the Medical Director outside of his/her Base Hospital obligations to correspond with the service operator to confirm or deny the extension of their license for the event and to reconcile payment for same, if appropriate.

5. RELATED PRACTICES AND/OR LEGISLATIONS

- i. *Ambulance Act (Ontario) and Ontario Regulation 257/00*

6. REFERENCES

- i. *Current EHSB MOHLTC Basic Life Saving (BLS) & Advanced Life Saving (ALS) Patient Care Standards(PCS)*