

CHAPTER 132  
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES—SERVICE PROGRAM AUTHORIZATION

[Joint Rules pursuant to 147A.4]

[Prior to 7/29/87, Health Department[470] Ch 132]

**641—132.1(147A) Definitions.** For the purpose of these rules, the following definitions shall apply:

“*Advanced emergency medical technician*” or “*AEMT*” means an individual who has successfully completed a course of study based on the United States Department of Transportation’s Advanced Emergency Medical Technician Instructional Guidelines (January 2009), has passed the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) practical and cognitive examinations for the AEMT, and is currently certified by the department as an AEMT.

“*Ambulance*” means any privately or publicly owned ground vehicle specifically designed, modified, constructed, equipped, staffed and used regularly to transport the sick, injured or otherwise incapacitated.

“*Ambulance service*” means any privately or publicly owned service program which utilizes ambulances in order to provide patient transportation and emergency medical services.

“*Automated defibrillator*” means any external semiautomatic device that determines whether defibrillation is required.

“*Automated external defibrillator*” or “*AED*” means an external semiautomated device that determines whether defibrillation is required.

“*CEH*” means “continuing education hour” which is based upon a minimum of 50 minutes of training per hour.

“*Continuous quality improvement (CQI)*” means a program that is an ongoing process to monitor standards at all EMS operational levels including the structure, process, and outcomes of the patient care event.

“*CPR*” means training and successful course completion in cardiopulmonary resuscitation, AED and obstructed airway procedures for all age groups according to recognized national standards.

“*Critical care paramedic*” or “*CCP*” means a currently certified paramedic specialist or paramedic who has successfully completed a critical care course of instruction approved by the department and has received endorsement from the department as a critical care paramedic.

“*Critical care transport*” or “*CCT*” means specialty care patient transportation, when medically necessary for a critically ill or injured patient needing critical care paramedic skills, provided by an authorized ambulance service that is approved by the department to provide critical care transportation and staffed by one or more critical care paramedics or other health care professional in an appropriate specialty area.

“*Current course completion*” means written recognition given for training and successful course completion of CPR with an expiration date or a recommended renewal date that exceeds the current date.

“*Deficiency*” means noncompliance with Iowa Code chapter 147A or these rules.

“*Department*” means the Iowa department of public health.

“*Director*” means the director of the Iowa department of public health.

“*Direct supervision*” means services provided by an EMS provider in a hospital setting or other health care entity in which health care is ordinarily performed when in the personal presence of a physician or under the direction of a physician who is immediately available or under the direction of a physician assistant or registered nurse who is immediately available and is acting consistent with adopted policies and protocols of a hospital or other health care entity.

“*Emergency medical care*” means such medical procedures as:

1. Administration of intravenous solutions.
2. Intubation.
3. Performance of cardiac defibrillation and synchronized cardioversion.
4. Administration of emergency drugs as provided by protocol.
5. Any medical procedure authorized by 641—subrule 131.3(3).

*“Emergency medical care provider”* means an individual who has been trained to provide emergency and nonemergency medical care at the EMR, EMT, AEMT, paramedic or other certification levels recognized by the department before 2011 and who has been issued a certificate by the department.

*“Emergency medical responder”* or *“EMR”* means an individual who has successfully completed a course of study based on the United States Department of Transportation’s Emergency Medical Responder Instructional Guidelines (January 2009), has passed the NREMT practical and cognitive examinations for the EMR, and is currently certified by the department as an EMR.

*“Emergency medical services”* or *“EMS”* means an integrated medical care delivery system to provide emergency and nonemergency medical care at the scene or during out-of-hospital patient transportation in an ambulance.

*“Emergency medical technician”* or *“EMT”* means an individual who has successfully completed a course of study based on the United States Department of Transportation’s Emergency Medical Technician Instructional Guidelines (January 2009), has passed the NREMT practical and cognitive examinations for the EMT, and is currently certified by the department as an EMT.

*“Emergency medical technician-basic (EMT-B)”* means an individual who has successfully completed the current United States Department of Transportation’s Emergency Medical Technician-Basic curriculum and department enhancements, passed the department’s approved written and practical examinations, and is currently certified by the department as an EMT-B.

*“Emergency medical technician-intermediate (EMT-I)”* means an individual who has successfully completed an EMT-intermediate curriculum approved by the department, passed the department’s approved written and practical examinations, and is currently certified by the department as an EMT-I.

*“Emergency medical technician-paramedic”* or *“EMT-P”* means an individual who has successfully completed the United States Department of Transportation’s EMT-Intermediate (1999) or the 1985 or earlier DOT EMT-P curriculum, has passed the department’s approved written and practical examinations, and is currently certified by the department as an EMT-P.

*“Emergency medical transportation”* means the transportation, by ambulance, of sick, injured or otherwise incapacitated persons who require emergency medical care.

*“EMS advisory council”* means a council appointed by the director to advise the director and develop policy recommendations concerning regulation, administration, and coordination of emergency medical services in the state.

*“EMS contingency plan”* means an agreement or dispatching policy between two or more ambulance service programs that addresses how and under what circumstances patient transportation will be provided in a given service area when coverage is not possible due to unforeseen circumstances.

*“EMS system”* is any specific arrangement of emergency medical personnel, equipment, and supplies designed to function in a coordinated fashion.

*“Endorsement”* means an approval granted by the department authorizing an individual to serve as an EMS-I, EMS-E or CCP.

*“First responder (FR)”* means an individual who has successfully completed the current United States Department of Transportation’s First Responder curriculum and department enhancements, passed the department’s approved written and practical examinations, and is currently certified by the department as an FR.

*“First response vehicle”* means any privately or publicly owned vehicle which is used solely for the transportation of emergency medical care personnel and equipment to and from the scene of a medical or nonmedical emergency.

*“Hospital”* means any hospital licensed under the provisions of Iowa Code chapter 135B.

*“Inclusion criteria”* means criteria determined by the department and adopted by reference to determine which patients are to be included in the Iowa EMS service program registry or the trauma registry.

*“Intermediate”* means an emergency medical technician-intermediate.

*“Iowa EMS Patient Registry Data Dictionary”* means reportable data elements for all ambulance service responses and definitions determined by the department and adopted by reference.

*“Medical direction”* means direction, advice, or orders provided by a medical director, supervising physician, or physician designee (in accordance with written parameters and protocols) to emergency medical care personnel.

*“Medical director”* means any physician licensed under Iowa Code chapter 148, 150, or 150A who shall be responsible for overall medical direction of the service program and who has completed a medical director workshop, sponsored by the department, within one year of assuming duties.

*“Mutual aid”* means an agreement, preferably in writing, between two or more services that addresses how and under what circumstances each service will respond to a request for assistance in situations that exhaust available resources.

*“Nonemergency transportation”* means transportation that may be provided for those persons determined to need transportation only.

*“Nontransport service”* means any privately or publicly owned rescue or first response service program which does not provide patient transportation (except when no ambulance is available or in a disaster situation) and utilizes only rescue or first response vehicles to provide emergency medical care at the scene of an emergency.

*“Off-line medical direction”* means the monitoring of EMS providers through retrospective field assessments and treatment documentation review, critiques of selected cases with the EMS personnel, and statistical review of the system.

*“On-line medical direction”* means immediate medical direction provided directly to service program EMS providers, in accordance with written parameters and protocols, by the medical director, supervising physician or physician designee either on-scene or by any telecommunications system.

*“Paramedic”* means an individual who has successfully completed a course of study based on the United States Department of Transportation’s Paramedic Instructional Guidelines (January 2009), has passed the NREMT practical and cognitive examinations for the paramedic, and is currently certified by the department as a paramedic.

*“Paramedic specialist (PS)”* means an individual who has successfully completed the current United States Department of Transportation’s EMT-Paramedic curriculum or equivalent, passed the department’s approved written and practical examinations, and is currently certified by the department as a paramedic specialist.

*“Patient”* means any individual who is sick, injured, or otherwise incapacitated.

*“Patient care report (PCR)”* means a computerized or written report that documents the assessment and management of the patient by the emergency care provider in the out-of-hospital setting.

*“Physician”* means any individual licensed under Iowa Code chapter 148, 150, or 150A.

*“Physician assistant (PA)”* means an individual licensed pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 148C.

*“Physician designee”* means any registered nurse licensed under Iowa Code chapter 152, or any physician assistant licensed under Iowa Code chapter 148C and approved by the board of physician assistant examiners. The physician designee acts as an intermediary for a supervising physician in accordance with written policies and protocols in directing the care provided by emergency medical care providers.

*“Preceptor”* means an individual who has been assigned by the training program, clinical facility or service program to supervise students while the students are completing their clinical or field experience. A preceptor must be an emergency medical care provider certified at the level being supervised or higher, or must be licensed as a registered nurse, physician’s assistant or physician.

*“Protocols”* means written directions and orders, consistent with the department’s standard of care, that are to be followed by an emergency medical care provider in emergency and nonemergency situations. Protocols must be approved by the service program’s medical director and address the care of both adult and pediatric patients.

*“Registered nurse (RN)”* means an individual licensed pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 152.

*“Reportable patient data”* means data elements and definitions determined by the department and adopted by reference to be reported to the Iowa EMS service program registry or the trauma registry or a trauma care facility on patients meeting the inclusion criteria.

“*Rescue vehicle*” means any privately or publicly owned vehicle which is specifically designed, modified, constructed, equipped, staffed and used regularly for rescue or extrication purposes at the scene of a medical or nonmedical emergency.

“*Service director*” means an individual who is responsible for the operation and administration of a service program.

“*Service program*” or “*service*” means any medical care ambulance service or nontransport service that has received authorization by the department.

“*Service program area*” means the geographic area of responsibility served by any given ambulance or nontransport service program.

“*Student*” means any individual enrolled in a training program and participating in the didactic, clinical, or field experience portions.

“*Supervising physician*” means any physician licensed under Iowa Code chapter 148, 150, or 150A. The supervising physician is responsible for medical direction of emergency medical care personnel when such personnel are providing emergency medical care.

“*Tiered response*” means a rendezvous of service programs to allow the transfer of patient care.

“*Training program*” means an NCA-approved Iowa college, the Iowa law enforcement academy or an Iowa hospital approved by the department to conduct emergency medical care training.

“*Transport agreement*” means a written agreement between two or more service programs that specifies the duties and responsibilities of the agreeing parties to ensure appropriate transportation of patients in a given service area.

[ARC 8661B, IAB 4/7/10, effective 5/12/10; ARC 9357B, IAB 2/9/11, effective 3/16/11; ARC 0063C, IAB 4/4/12, effective 5/9/12]

#### **641—132.2(147A) Authority of emergency medical care provider.**

**132.2(1)** Rescinded IAB 2/7/01, effective 3/14/01.

**132.2(2)** An emergency medical care provider who holds an active certification issued by the department may:

*a.* Render via on-line medical direction emergency and nonemergency medical care in those areas for which the emergency medical care provider is certified, as part of an authorized service program:

- (1) At the scene of an emergency;
- (2) During transportation to a hospital;
- (3) While in the hospital emergency department;
- (4) Until patient care is directly assumed by a physician or by authorized hospital personnel; and
- (5) During transfer from one medical care facility to another or to a private home.

*b.* Function in any hospital or any other entity in which health care is ordinarily provided only when under the direct supervision of a physician when:

- (1) Enrolled as a student in and approved by a training program;
- (2) Fulfilling continuing education requirements;
- (3) Employed by or assigned to a hospital or other entity in which health care is ordinarily provided only when under the direct supervision of a physician as a member of an authorized service program, or in an individual capacity, by rendering lifesaving services in the facility in which employed or assigned pursuant to the emergency medical care provider’s certification and under direct supervision of a physician, physician assistant, or registered nurse. An emergency medical care provider shall not routinely function without the direct supervision of a physician, physician assistant, or registered nurse. However, when the physician, physician assistant, or registered nurse cannot directly assume emergency care of the patient, the emergency medical care personnel may perform, without direct supervision, emergency medical care procedures for which certified, if the life of the patient is in immediate danger and such care is required to preserve the patient’s life;

(4) Employed by or assigned to a hospital or other entity in which health care is ordinarily provided only when under the direct supervision of a physician, as a member of an authorized service program, or in an individual capacity, to perform nonlifesaving procedures for which certified and designated in a written job description. Such procedures may be performed after the patient is observed by and when the emergency medical care provider is under the supervision of the physician, physician assistant, or

registered nurse, including when the registered nurse is not acting in the capacity of a physician designee, and where the procedure may be immediately abandoned without risk to the patient.

**132.2(3)** When emergency medical care personnel are functioning in a capacity identified in subrule 132.2(2), paragraph “a,” they may perform emergency and nonemergency medical care without contacting a supervising physician or physician designee if written protocols have been approved by the service program medical director which clearly identify when the protocols may be used in lieu of voice contact.

**132.2(4)** Scope of practice.

*a.* Emergency medical care providers shall provide only those services and procedures as are authorized within the scope of practice for which they are certified.

*b.* Scope of Practice for Iowa EMS Providers (April 2012) is incorporated and adopted by reference for EMS providers. For any differences that may occur between the adopted references and these administrative rules, the administrative rules shall prevail.

*c.* The department may grant a variance for changes to the Scope of Practice that have not yet been adopted by these rules. A variance to these rules may be granted by the department pursuant to 132.14(1).

*d.* Scope of Practice for Iowa EMS Providers is available through the Iowa Department of Public Health, Bureau of EMS, Lucas State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0075, or the bureau of EMS Web site ([www.idph.state.ia.us/ems](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/ems)).

**132.2(5)** The department may approve other emergency medical care skills on a limited pilot project basis. Requests for a pilot project application shall be made to the department.

**132.2(6)** An emergency medical care provider who has knowledge of an emergency medical care provider, service program or training program that has violated Iowa Code chapter 147A or these rules shall report such information to the department within 30 days.

[ARC 8230B, IAB 10/7/09, effective 11/11/09; ARC 0063C, IAB 4/4/12, effective 5/9/12; ARC 0480C, IAB 12/12/12, effective 1/16/13]

**641—132.3(147A) Emergency medical care providers—requirements for enrollment in training programs.** Rescinded IAB 2/9/00, effective 3/15/00.

**641—132.4(147A) Emergency medical care providers—certification, renewal standards and procedures, and fees.** Rescinded IAB 2/9/00, effective 3/15/00.

**641—132.5(147A) Training programs—standards, application, inspection and approval.** Rescinded IAB 2/9/00, effective 3/15/00.

**641—132.6(147A) Continuing education providers—approval, record keeping and inspection.** Rescinded IAB 2/9/00, effective 3/15/00.

**641—132.7(147A) Service program—authorization and renewal procedures, inspections and transfer or assignment of certificates of authorization.**

**132.7(1)** *General requirements for authorization and renewal of authorization.*

*a.* An ambulance or nontransport service in this state that desires to provide emergency medical care, in the out-of-hospital setting, shall apply to the department for authorization to establish a program utilizing certified emergency medical care providers for delivery of care at the scene of an emergency or nonemergency, during transportation to a hospital, during transfer from one medical care facility to another or to a private home, or while in the hospital emergency department and until care is directly assumed by a physician or by authorized hospital personnel. Application for authorization shall be made on forms provided by the department. Applicants shall complete and submit the forms to the department at least 30 days prior to the anticipated date of authorization.

*b.* To renew service program authorization, the service program shall continue to meet the requirements of Iowa Code chapter 147A and these rules. The renewal application shall be completed and submitted to the department at least 30 days before the current authorization expires.

c. Applications for authorization and renewal of authorization may be obtained upon request to: Iowa Department of Public Health, Bureau of Emergency Medical Services, Lucas State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0075, or the bureau of EMS Web site ([www.idph.state.ia.us/ems](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/ems)).

d. The department shall approve an application when the department is satisfied that the program proposed by the application will be operated in compliance with Iowa Code chapter 147A and these administrative rules.

e. Service program authorization is valid for a period of three years from its effective date unless otherwise specified on the certificate of authorization or unless sooner suspended or revoked.

f. Service programs shall be fully operational upon the effective date and at the level specified on the certificate of authorization and shall meet all applicable requirements of Iowa Code chapter 147A and these rules. Deficiencies that are identified shall be corrected within a time frame determined by the department.

g. The certificate of authorization shall be issued to the service program based in the city named in the application. Any ambulance service or nontransport service that operates from more than one city shall apply for and, if approved, shall receive an inclusive authorization for each city of operation that is listed in the application.

h. Any service program owner in possession of a certificate of authorization as a result of transfer or assignment shall continue to meet all applicable requirements of Iowa Code chapter 147A and these rules. In addition, the new owner shall apply to the department for a new certificate of authorization within 30 days following the effective date of the transfer or assignment.

i. Service programs that acquire and maintain current status with a nationally recognized EMS service program accreditation entity that meets or exceeds Iowa requirements may be exempted from the service application/inspection process. A copy of the state service application and accreditation inspection must be filed with the department for approval.

**132.7(2) *Out-of-state service programs.***

a. Service programs located in other states which wish to provide emergency medical care in Iowa must meet all requirements of Iowa Code chapter 147A and these rules and must be authorized by the department except when:

- (1) Transporting patients from locations within Iowa to destinations outside of Iowa;
- (2) Transporting patients from locations outside of Iowa to destinations within Iowa;
- (3) Transporting patients to or from locations outside of Iowa that requires travel through Iowa;
- (4) Responding to a request for mutual aid in this state; or
- (5) Making an occasional EMS response to locations within Iowa and then transporting the patients to destinations within Iowa.

b. An out-of-state service program that meets any of the exception criteria established in 132.7(2) shall be authorized to provide emergency medical care by the state in which the program resides and shall provide the department with verification of current state authorization upon request.

**132.7(3) *Air ambulances.*** Rescinded IAB 4/7/10, effective 5/12/10.

**132.7(4) *Service program inspections.***

a. The department shall inspect each service program at least once every three years. The department without prior notification may make additional inspections at times, places and under such circumstances as it deems necessary to ensure compliance with Iowa Code chapter 147A and these rules.

b. The department may request additional information from or may inspect the records of any service program which is currently authorized or which is seeking authorization to ensure continued compliance or to verify the validity of any information presented on the application for service program authorization.

c. The department may inspect the patient care records of a service program to verify compliance with Iowa Code chapter 147A and these rules.

d. No person shall interfere with the inspection activities of the department or its agents pursuant to Iowa Code section 135.36.

e. Interference with or failure to allow an inspection by the department or its agents may be cause for disciplinary action in reference to service program authorization.

**132.7(5) Temporary service program authorization.**

a. A temporary service program authorization may be issued to services that wish to operate during special events that may need emergency medical care coverage. Temporary authorization is valid for a period of 30 days unless otherwise specified on the certificate of authorization or unless sooner suspended or revoked. Temporary authorization shall apply to those requirements and standards for which the department is responsible. Applicants shall complete and submit the necessary forms to the department at least 30 days prior to the anticipated date of need.

b. The service shall meet applicable requirement of these rules, but may apply for a variance using the criteria outlined in rule 641—132.14(147A).

c. The service shall submit a justification which demonstrates the need for the temporary service program authorization.

d. The service shall submit a report, to the department, within 30 days after the expiration of the temporary authorization which includes as a minimum:

- (1) Number of patients treated;
- (2) Types of treatment rendered;
- (3) Any operational or medical problems.

**132.7(6) Conditional service program authorization.** Rescinded IAB 2/6/02, effective 3/13/02.  
[ARC 8661B, IAB 4/7/10, effective 5/12/10; ARC 9357B, IAB 2/9/11, effective 3/16/11]

**641—132.8(147A) Service program levels of care and staffing standards.**

**132.8(1)** A service program seeking ambulance authorization shall:

a. Apply for authorization at one of the following levels:

- (1) EMT-B/EMT.
- (2) EMT-I.
- (3) AEMT.
- (4) EMT-P.
- (5) PS/Paramedic.

b. Maintain an adequate number of ambulances and personnel to provide 24-hour-per-day, 7-day-per-week coverage. Ambulances shall comply with paragraph 132.8(1)“d.” The number of ambulances and personnel to be maintained shall be determined by the department, and shall be based upon, but not limited to, the following:

- (1) Number of calls;
- (2) Service area and population; and
- (3) Availability of other services in the area.

c. Provide as a minimum, on each ambulance call, the following staff:

- (1) One currently certified EMT-B or EMT.
- (2) One currently licensed driver. The service shall document each driver’s training in CPR (AED training not required), in emergency driving techniques and in the use of the service’s communications equipment. Training in emergency driving techniques shall include:

1. A review of Iowa laws regarding emergency vehicle operations.
2. A review of the service program’s driving policy for first response vehicles, ambulances, rescue vehicles or personal vehicles of an emergency medical care provider responding as a member of the service. The policy shall include, at a minimum:

- Frequency and content of driver’s training requirements.
- Criteria for response with lights or sirens or both.
- Speed limits when responding with lights or sirens or both.
- Procedure of approaching intersections with lights or sirens or both.
- Notification process in the event of a motor vehicle collision involving a first response vehicle, ambulance, rescue vehicle or personal vehicle of an emergency medical care provider responding as a member of the service.

3. Behind-the-wheel driving of the service’s first response vehicles, ambulances and rescue vehicles.

- d.* Submit an EMS contingency plan that will be put into operation when coverage pursuant to the 24/7 rule in paragraph 132.8(1) “*b*” is not possible due to unforeseen circumstances.
- e.* Report frequency of use of the contingency plan to the department upon request.
- f.* Seek approval from the department to provide nontransport coverage in addition to or in lieu of ambulance authorization.
- g.* Advertise or otherwise imply or hold itself out to the public as an authorized ambulance service only to the level of care maintained 24 hours per day, seven days a week.
- h.* Apply to the department to receive approval to provide critical care transportation based upon appropriately trained staff and approved equipment.
- i.* Unless otherwise established by protocol approved by the medical director, the emergency medical care provider with the highest level of certification (on the transporting service) shall attend the patient.

**132.8(2)** A service program seeking nontransport authorization shall:

- a.* Apply for authorization at one of the following levels:
  - (1) First responder/EMR.
  - (2) EMT-B/EMT.
  - (3) EMT-I.
  - (4) AEMT.
  - (5) EMT-P.
  - (6) PS/Paramedic.
- b.* For staffing purposes provide, as a minimum, a transport agreement.
- c.* Advertise or otherwise hold itself out to the public as an authorized nontransport service program only to the level of care maintained 24 hours per day, seven days a week.
- d.* Not be prohibited from transporting patients in an emergency situation when lack of transporting resources would cause an unnecessary delay in patient care.

**132.8(3)** Service program operational requirements. Ambulance and nontransport service programs shall:

- a.* Complete and maintain a patient care report concerning the care provided to each patient. Ambulance services shall provide, at a minimum, a PCR verbal report upon delivery of a patient to a receiving facility and shall provide a complete PCR within 24 hours to the receiving facility.
- b.* Utilize department protocols as the standard of care. The service program medical director may make changes to the department protocols provided the changes are within the EMS provider’s scope of practice and within acceptable medical practice. A copy of the changes shall be filed with the department.
- c.* Ensure that personnel duties are consistent with the level of certification and the service program’s level of authorization.
- d.* Maintain current personnel rosters and personnel files. The files shall include the names and addresses of all personnel and documentation that verifies EMS provider credentials including, but not limited to:
  - (1) Current provider level certification.
  - (2) Current course completions/certifications/endorsements as may be required by the medical director.
  - (3) PA and RN exception forms for appropriate personnel and verification that PA and RN personnel have completed the appropriate EMS level continuing education.
- e.* If requested by the department, notify the department in writing of any changes in personnel rosters.
- f.* Have a medical director and 24-hour-per-day, 7-day-per-week on-line medical direction available.
- g.* Ensure that the appropriate service program personnel respond as required in this rule and that they respond in a reasonable amount of time.
- h.* Notify the department in writing within seven days of any change in service director or ownership or control or of any reduction or discontinuance of operations.

*i.* Select a new or temporary medical director if for any reason the current medical director cannot or no longer wishes to serve in that capacity. Selection shall be made before the current medical director relinquishes the duties and responsibilities of that position.

*j.* Within seven days of any change of medical director, notify the department in writing of the selection of the new or temporary medical director who must have indicated in writing a willingness to serve in that capacity.

*k.* Not prevent a registered nurse or physician assistant from supplementing the staffing of an authorized service program provided equivalent training is documented pursuant to Iowa Code sections 147A.12 and 147A.13.

*l.* Not be authorized to utilize a manual defibrillator (except paramedic, paramedic specialist).

*m.* Implement a continuous quality improvement program that provides a policy to include as a minimum:

(1) Medical audits.

(2) Skills competency.

(3) Follow-up (loop closure/resolution).

*n.* Require physician assistants and registered nurses providing care pursuant to Iowa Code sections 147A.12 and 147A.13 to meet CEH requirements approved by the medical director.

*o.* Document an equipment maintenance program to ensure proper working condition and appropriate quantities.

*p.* Ensure a response to requests for assistance when dispatched by a public safety answering point within the primary service area identified in the service program's authorization application.

*q.* Submit reportable patient data identified in subrule 132.8(7) via electronic transfer. Data shall be submitted in a format approved by the department.

*r.* Submit reportable patient data identified in subrule 132.8(7) to the department for each calendar quarter. Reportable patient data shall be submitted no later than 90 days after the end of the quarter.

**132.8(4)** Equipment and vehicle standards. The following standards shall apply:

*a.* Ambulances placed into service after July 1, 2002, shall meet, as a minimum, the National Truck and Equipment Association's Ambulance Manufacture Division (AMD) performance specifications.

*b.* All EMS service programs shall carry equipment and supplies in quantities as determined by the medical director and appropriate to the service program's level of care and available certified EMS personnel and as established in the service program's approved protocols.

*c.* Pharmaceutical drugs and over-the-counter drugs may be carried and administered upon completion of training and pursuant to the service program's established protocols approved by the medical director.

*d.* All drugs shall be maintained in accordance with the rules of the state board of pharmacy examiners.

*e.* Accountability for drug exchange, distribution, storage, ownership, and security shall be subject to applicable state and federal requirements. The method of accountability shall be described in the written pharmacy agreement. A copy of the written pharmacy agreement shall be submitted to the department.

*f.* Each ambulance service program shall maintain a telecommunications system between the emergency medical care provider and the source of the service program's medical direction and other appropriate entities. Nontransport service programs shall maintain a telecommunications system between the emergency medical care provider and the responding ambulance service and other appropriate entities.

*g.* All telecommunications shall be conducted in an appropriate manner and on a frequency approved by the Federal Communications Commission and the department.

**132.8(5)** Preventative maintenance. Each ambulance service program shall document a preventative maintenance program to make certain that:

*a.* Vehicles are fully equipped and maintained in a safe operating condition. In addition:

(1) All ground ambulances shall be housed in a garage or other facility that prevents engine, equipment and supply freeze-up and windshield icing. An unobstructed exit to the street shall also be maintained;

(2) The garage or other facility shall be adequately heated or each response vehicle shall have permanently installed auxiliary heating units to sufficiently heat the engine and patient compartment; and

(3) The garage or other facility shall be maintained in a clean, safe condition free of debris or other hazards.

*b.* The exterior and interior of the vehicles are kept clean. The interior and equipment shall be cleaned after each use as necessary. When a patient with a communicable disease has been transported or treated, the interior and any equipment or nondisposable supplies coming in contact with the patient shall be thoroughly disinfected.

*c.* All equipment stored in a patient compartment is secured so that, in the event of a sudden stop or movement of the vehicle, the patient and service program personnel are not injured by moving equipment.

*d.* All airway, electrical and mechanical equipment is kept clean and in proper operating condition.

*e.* Compartments provided within the vehicles and the medical and other supplies stored therein are kept in a clean and sanitary condition.

*f.* All linens, airway and oxygen equipment or any other supplies or equipment coming in direct patient contact is of a single-use disposable type or cleaned, laundered or disinfected prior to reuse.

*g.* Freshly laundered blankets and linen or disposable linens are used on cots and pillows and are changed after each use.

*h.* Proper storage is provided for clean linen.

*i.* Soiled supplies shall be appropriately disposed of according to current biohazard practices.

**132.8(6) Service program—incident and accident reports.**

*a.* Incidents of fire or other destructive or damaging occurrences or theft of a service program ambulance, equipment, or drugs shall be reported to the department within 48 hours following the occurrence of the incident.

*b.* A copy of the motor vehicle accident report required under Iowa Code subsection 321.266(2), relating to the reporting of an accident resulting in personal injury, death or property damage, shall be submitted to the department within seven days following an accident involving a service program vehicle.

*c.* A service program must report the termination of an emergency medical care provider due to negligence, professional incompetency, unethical conduct or substance use to the department within ten days following the termination.

**132.8(7) Adoption by reference.** The Iowa EMS Patient Registry Data Dictionary identified in 641—paragraph 136.2(1)“*c*” is adopted and incorporated by reference for inclusion criteria and reportable patient data. For any differences which may occur between the adopted reference and this chapter, the administrative rules shall prevail.

*a.* The Iowa EMS Patient Registry Data Dictionary identified in 641—paragraph 136.2(1)“*c*” is available through the Iowa Department of Public Health, Bureau of Emergency Medical Services, Lucas State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0075, or the EMS bureau Web site ([www.idph.state.ia.us/ems](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/ems)).

*b.* The department shall prepare compilations for release or dissemination on all reportable patient data entered into the EMS service program registry during the reporting period. The compilations shall include, but not be limited to, trends and patient care outcomes for local, regional, and statewide evaluations. The compilations shall be made available to all service programs submitting reportable patient data to the registry.

*c.* Access and release of reportable patient data and information.

(1) The data collected by and furnished to the department pursuant to this subrule are confidential records of the condition, diagnosis, care, or treatment of patients or former patients, including outpatients, pursuant to Iowa Code section 22.7. The compilations prepared for release or dissemination from the data collected are not confidential under Iowa Code section 22.7, subsection 2. However, information

which individually identifies patients shall not be disclosed, and state and federal law regarding patient confidentiality shall apply.

(2) The department may approve requests for reportable patient data for special studies and analysis provided the request has been reviewed and approved by the deputy director of the department with respect to the scientific merit and confidentiality safeguards, and the department has given administrative approval for the proposal. The confidentiality of patients and the EMS service program shall be protected.

(3) The department may require entities requesting the data to pay any or all of the reasonable costs associated with furnishing the reportable patient data.

*d.* To the extent possible, activities under this subrule shall be coordinated with other health data collection methods.

*e.* Quality assurance.

(1) For the purpose of ensuring the completeness and quality of reportable patient data, the department or authorized representative may examine all or part of the patient care report as necessary to verify or clarify all reportable patient data submitted by a service program.

(2) Review of a patient care report by the department shall be scheduled in advance with the service program and completed in a timely manner.

*f.* The director, pursuant to Iowa Code section 147A.4, may grant a variance from the requirements of these rules for any service program, provided that the variance is related to undue hardships in complying with this chapter.

**132.8(8)** The patient care report is a confidential document and shall be exempt from disclosure pursuant to Iowa Code subsection 22.7(2) and shall not be accessible to the general public. Information contained in these reports, however, may be utilized by any of the indicated distribution recipients and may appear in any document or public health record in a manner which prevents the identification of any patient or person named in these reports.

**132.8(9)** Implementation. The director may grant exceptions and variances from the requirements of this chapter for any ambulance or nontransport service. Exceptions or variations shall be reasonably related to undue hardships which existing services experience in complying with this chapter. Services requesting exceptions and variances shall be subject to other applicable rules adopted pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 147A.

[ARC 8661B, IAB 4/7/10, effective 5/12/10; ARC 9357B, IAB 2/9/11, effective 3/16/11; ARC 9444B, IAB 4/6/11, effective 5/11/11; ARC 0063C, IAB 4/4/12, effective 5/9/12]

#### **641—132.9(147A) Service program—off-line medical direction.**

**132.9(1)** The medical director shall be responsible for providing appropriate medical direction and overall supervision of the medical aspects of the service program and shall ensure that those duties and responsibilities are not relinquished before a new or temporary replacement is functioning in that capacity.

**132.9(2)** The medical director's duties include, but need not be limited to:

*a.* Developing, approving and updating protocols to be used by service program personnel that meet or exceed the minimum standard protocols developed by the department.

*b.* Developing and maintaining liaisons between the service, other physicians, physician designees, hospitals, and the medical community served by the service program.

*c.* Monitoring and evaluating the activities of the service program and individual personnel performance, including establishment of measurable outcomes that reflect the goals and standards of the EMS system.

*d.* Assessing the continuing education needs of the service and individual service program personnel and assisting them in the planning of appropriate continuing education programs.

*e.* Being available for individual evaluation and consultation to service program personnel.

*f.* Performing or appointing a designee to complete the medical audits required in subrule 132.9(4).

*g.* Developing and approving an applicable continuous quality improvement policy demonstrating type and frequency of review, including an action plan and follow-up.

*h.* Informing the medical community of the emergency medical care being provided according to approved protocols in the service program area.

*i.* Helping to resolve service operational problems.

*j.* Approving or removing an individual from service program participation.

**132.9(3)** Supervising physicians, physician designees, or other appointees as defined in the continuous quality improvement policy referenced in 132.9(2) “g” may assist the medical director by:

*a.* Providing medical direction.

*b.* Reviewing the emergency medical care provided.

*c.* Reviewing and updating protocols.

*d.* Providing and assessing continuing education needs for service program personnel.

*e.* Helping to resolve operational problems.

**132.9(4)** The medical director or other qualified designees shall randomly audit (at least quarterly) documentation of calls where emergency medical care was provided. The medical director shall randomly review audits performed by the qualified appointee. The audit shall be in writing and shall include, but need not be limited to:

*a.* Reviewing the patient care provided by service program personnel and remedying any deficiencies or potential deficiencies that may be identified regarding medical knowledge or skill performance.

*b.* Response time and time spent at the scene.

*c.* Overall EMS system response to ensure that the patient’s needs were matched to available resources including, but not limited to, mutual aid and tiered response.

*d.* Completeness of documentation.

**132.9(5)** Rescinded IAB 2/6/02, effective 3/13/02.

**132.9(6)** On-line medical direction when provided through a hospital.

*a.* The medical director shall designate in writing at least one hospital which has established a written on-line medical direction agreement with the department. It shall be the medical director’s responsibility to notify the department in writing of changes regarding this designation.

*b.* Hospitals signing an on-line medical direction agreement shall:

(1) Ensure that the supervising physicians or physician designees will be available to provide on-line medical direction via telecommunications on a 24-hour-per-day basis.

(2) Identify the service programs for which on-line medical direction will be provided.

(3) Establish written protocols for use by supervising physicians and physician designees who provide on-line medical direction.

(4) Administer a quality assurance program to review orders given. The program shall include a mechanism for the hospital and service program medical directors to discuss and resolve any identified problems.

*c.* A hospital which has a written medical direction agreement with the department may provide medical direction for any or all service program authorization levels and may also agree to provide backup on-line medical direction for any other service program when that service program is unable to contact its primary source of on-line medical direction.

*d.* Only supervising physicians or physician designees shall provide on-line medical direction. A physician assistant, registered nurse or emergency medical care provider (of equal or higher level) may relay orders to emergency medical care personnel, without modification, from a supervising physician. A physician designee may not deviate from approved protocols.

*e.* The hospital shall provide, upon request to the department, a list of supervising physicians and physician designees providing on-line medical direction.

*f.* Rescinded IAB 2/6/02, effective 3/13/02.

*g.* The department may verify a hospital’s communications system to ensure compliance with the on-line medical direction agreement.

*h.* A supervising physician or physician designee who gives orders (directly or via communications equipment from some other point) to an emergency medical care provider is not subject

to criminal liability by reason of having issued the orders and is not liable for civil damages for acts or omissions relating to the issuance of the orders unless the acts or omissions constitute recklessness.

*i.* Nothing in these rules requires or obligates a hospital, supervising physician or physician designee to approve requests for orders received from emergency medical care personnel.

NOTE: Hospitals in other states may participate provided the applicable requirements of this subrule are met.

[ARC 0063C, IAB 4/4/12, effective 5/9/12]

**641—132.10(147A) Complaints and investigations—denial, citation and warning, probation, suspension or revocation of service program authorization or renewal.**

**132.10(1)** All complaints regarding the operation of authorized emergency medical care service programs, or those purporting to be or operating as the same, shall be reported to the department. The address is: Iowa Department of Public Health, Bureau of Emergency Medical Services, Lucas State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0075.

**132.10(2)** Complaints and the investigative process will be treated as confidential in accordance with Iowa Code section 22.7.

**132.10(3)** Service program authorization may be denied, issued a civil penalty not to exceed \$1000, issued a citation and warning, placed on probation, suspended, revoked, or otherwise disciplined by the department in accordance with Iowa Code subsection 147A.5(3) for any of the following reasons:

- a.* Knowingly allowing the falsifying of a patient care report (PCR).
- b.* Failure to submit required reports and documents.
- c.* Delegating professional responsibility to a person when the service program knows that the person is not qualified by training, education, experience or certification to perform the required duties.
- d.* Practicing, condoning, or facilitating discrimination against a patient, student or employee based on race, ethnicity, national origin, color, sex, sexual orientation, age, marital status, political belief, religion, mental or physical disability diagnosis, or social or economic status.
- e.* Knowingly allowing sexual harassment of a patient, student or employee. Sexual harassment includes sexual advances, sexual solicitations, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature.
- f.* Failure or repeated failure of the applicant or alleged violator to meet the requirements or standards established pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 147A or the rules adopted pursuant to that chapter.
- g.* Obtaining or attempting to obtain or renew or retain service program authorization by fraudulent means or misrepresentation or by submitting false information.
- h.* Engaging in conduct detrimental to the well-being or safety of the patients receiving or who may be receiving emergency medical care.
- i.* Failure to correct a deficiency within the time frame required by the department.

**132.10(4)** The department shall notify the applicant of the granting or denial of authorization or renewal, or shall notify the alleged violator of action to issue a citation and warning, place on probation or suspend or revoke authorization or renewal pursuant to Iowa Code sections 17A.12 and 17A.18. Notice of issuance of a denial, citation and warning, probation, suspension or revocation shall be served by restricted certified mail, return receipt requested, or by personal service.

**132.10(5)** Any requests for appeal concerning the denial, citation and warning, probation, suspension or revocation of service program authorization or renewal shall be submitted by the aggrieved party in writing to the department by certified mail, return receipt requested, within 20 days of the receipt of the department's notice. The address is: Iowa Department of Public Health, Bureau of Emergency Medical Services, Lucas State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0075. If such a request is made within the 20-day time period, the notice shall be deemed to be suspended. Prior to or at the hearing, the department may rescind the notice upon satisfaction that the reason for the denial, citation and warning, probation, suspension or revocation has been or will be removed. After the hearing, or upon default of the applicant or alleged violator, the administrative law judge shall affirm, modify or set aside the denial, citation and warning, probation, suspension or revocation. If no request

for appeal is received within the 20-day time period, the department's notice of denial, probation, suspension or revocation shall become the department's final agency action.

**132.10(6)** Upon receipt of an appeal that meets contested case status, the appeal shall be forwarded within five working days to the department of inspections and appeals pursuant to the rules adopted by that agency regarding the transmission of contested cases. The information upon which the adverse action is based and any additional information which may be provided by the aggrieved party shall also be provided to the department of inspections and appeals.

**132.10(7)** The hearing shall be conducted according to the procedural rules of the department of inspections and appeals found in 481—Chapter 10.

**132.10(8)** When the administrative law judge makes a proposed decision and order, it shall be served by restricted certified mail, return receipt requested, or delivered by personal service. That proposed decision and order then becomes the department's final agency action without further proceedings ten days after it is received by the aggrieved party unless an appeal to the director is taken as provided in subrule 132.10(9).

**132.10(9)** Any appeal to the director for review of the proposed decision and order of the administrative law judge shall be filed in writing and mailed to the director by certified mail, return receipt requested, or delivered by personal service within ten days after the receipt of the administrative law judge's proposed decision and order by the aggrieved party. A copy of the appeal shall also be mailed to the administrative law judge. Any request for an appeal shall state the reason for appeal.

**132.10(10)** Upon receipt of an appeal request, the administrative law judge shall prepare the record of the hearing for submission to the director. The record shall include the following:

- a. All pleadings, motions, and rules.
- b. All evidence received or considered and all other submissions by recording or transcript.
- c. A statement of all matters officially noticed.
- d. All questions and offers of proof, objections, and rulings thereon.
- e. All proposed findings and exceptions.
- f. The proposed decision and order of the administrative law judge.

**132.10(11)** The decision and order of the director becomes the department's final agency action upon receipt by the aggrieved party and shall be delivered by restricted certified mail, return receipt requested, or by personal service.

**132.10(12)** It is not necessary to file an application for a rehearing to exhaust administrative remedies when appealing to the director or the district court as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.19. The aggrieved party to the final agency action of the department who has exhausted all administrative remedies may petition for judicial review of that action pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 17A.

**132.10(13)** Any petition for judicial review of a decision and order shall be filed in the district court within 30 days after the decision and order becomes final. A copy of the notice of appeal shall be sent to the department by certified mail, return receipt requested, or by personal service. The address is: Bureau of Emergency Medical Services, Iowa Department of Public Health, Lucas State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0075.

**132.10(14)** The party who appeals a final agency action to the district court shall pay the cost of the preparation of a transcript of the contested case hearing for the district court.

**132.10(15)** Final decisions of the department relating to disciplinary proceedings may be transmitted to the appropriate professional associations, the news media or employer.

**132.10(16)** This rule is not subject to waiver or variance pursuant to 641—Chapter 178 or any other provision of law.

**132.10(17)** Emergency adjudicative proceedings.

a. Necessary emergency action. To the extent necessary to prevent or avoid immediate danger to the public health, safety, or welfare, and consistent with the Constitution and other provisions of law, the department may issue a written order in compliance with Iowa Code section 17A.18 to suspend a certificate in whole or in part, order the cessation of any continuing activity, order affirmative action, or take other action within the jurisdiction of the department by emergency adjudicative order.

*b.* Before issuing an emergency adjudicative order, the department shall consider factors including, but not limited to, the following:

- (1) Whether there has been a sufficient factual investigation to ensure that the department is proceeding on the basis of reliable information;
- (2) Whether the specific circumstances which pose immediate danger to the public health, safety or welfare have been identified and determined to be continuing;
- (3) Whether the program required to comply with the emergency adjudicative order may continue to engage in other activities without posing immediate danger to the public health, safety or welfare;
- (4) Whether imposition of monitoring requirements or other interim safeguards would be sufficient to protect the public health, safety or welfare; and
- (5) Whether the specific action contemplated by the department is necessary to avoid the immediate danger.

*c.* Issuance of order.

(1) An emergency adjudicative order shall contain findings of fact, conclusions of law, and policy reasons to justify the determination of an immediate danger in the department's decision to take immediate action. The order is a public record.

(2) The written emergency adjudicative order shall be immediately delivered to the service program that is required to comply with the order by utilizing one or more of the following procedures:

1. Personal delivery.
2. Certified mail, return receipt requested, to the last address on file with the department.
3. Fax. Fax may be used as the sole method of delivery if the service program required to comply with the order has filed a written request that agency orders be sent by fax and has provided a fax number for that purpose.

(3) To the degree practicable, the department shall select the procedure for providing written notice that best ensures prompt, reliable delivery.

(4) Unless the written emergency adjudicative order is provided by personal delivery on the same day that the order issues, the department shall make reasonable immediate efforts to contact by telephone the service program that is required to comply with the order.

(5) After the issuance of an emergency adjudicative order, the department shall proceed as quickly as feasible to complete any proceedings that would be required if the matter did not involve an immediate danger.

(6) Issuance of a written emergency adjudicative order shall include notification of the date on which department proceedings are scheduled for completion. After issuance of an emergency adjudicative order, continuance of further department proceedings to a later date will be granted only in compelling circumstances upon application in writing unless the service program that is required to comply with the order is the party requesting the continuance.

[ARC 8661B, IAB 4/7/10, effective 5/12/10]

**641—132.11(147A) Complaints and investigations—denial, citation and warning, probation, suspension, or revocation of emergency medical care personnel certificates or renewal.** Rescinded IAB 2/9/00, effective 3/15/00.

**641—132.12(147A) Complaints and investigations—denial, citation and warning, probation, suspension, or revocation of training program or continuing education provider approval or renewal.** Rescinded IAB 2/9/00, effective 3/15/00.

**641—132.13(147A) Complaints, investigations and appeals.** Rescinded IAB 2/9/00, effective 3/15/00.

**641—132.14(147A) Temporary variances.**

**132.14(1)** If during a period of authorization there is some occurrence that temporarily causes a service program to be in noncompliance with these rules, the department may grant a temporary variance. Temporary variances to these rules (not to exceed six months in length per any approved request) may be

granted by the department to a currently authorized service program. Requests for temporary variances shall apply only to the service program requesting the variance and shall apply only to those requirements and standards for which the department is responsible.

**132.14(2)** To request a variance, the service program shall:

*a.* Notify the department verbally (as soon as possible) of the need to request a temporary variance. Submit to the department, within ten days after having given verbal notification to the department, a written explanation for the temporary variance request. The address and telephone number are Iowa Department of Public Health, Bureau of Emergency Medical Services, Lucas State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0075; (515)725-0326.

*b.* Cite the rule from which the variance is requested.

*c.* State why compliance with the rule cannot be maintained.

*d.* Explain the alternative arrangements that have been or will be made regarding the variance request.

*e.* Estimate the period of time for which the variance will be needed.

*f.* Rescinded IAB 2/2/05, effective 3/9/05.

**132.14(3)** Upon notification of a request for variance, the department shall take into consideration, but shall not be limited to:

*a.* Examining the rule from which the temporary variance is requested to determine if the request is appropriate and reasonable.

*b.* Evaluating the alternative arrangements that have been or will be made regarding the variance request.

*c.* Examining the effect of the requested variance upon the level of care provided to the general populace served.

*d.* Requesting additional information if necessary.

**132.14(4)** Preliminary approval or denial shall be provided verbally within 24 hours. Final approval or denial shall be issued in writing within ten days after having received the written explanation for the temporary variance request and shall include the reason for approval or denial. If approval is granted, the effective date and the duration of the temporary variance shall be clearly stated.

**132.14(5)** Rescinded, effective July 10, 1987.

**132.14(6)** Any request for appeal concerning the denial of a request for temporary variance shall be in accordance with the procedures outlined in rule 641—132.10(147A).

**132.14(7)** Rescinded IAB 2/3/93, effective 3/10/93.

**641—132.15(147A) Transport options for fully authorized EMT-P, PS, and paramedic service programs.**

**132.15(1)** Upon responding to an emergency call, ambulance or nontransport EMT-P, PS, and paramedic level services may make a determination at the scene as to whether emergency medical transportation or nonemergency transportation is needed. The determination shall be made by an EMT-P, paramedic or paramedic specialist and shall be based upon the nonemergency transportation protocol approved by the service program's medical director. When applying this protocol, the following criteria, as a minimum, shall be used to determine the appropriate transport option:

*a.* Primary assessment,

*b.* Focused history and physical examination,

*c.* Chief complaint,

*d.* Name, address and age, and

*e.* Nature of the call for assistance.

Emergency medical transportation shall be provided whenever any of the above criteria indicate that treatment should be initiated.

**132.15(2)** If treatment is not indicated, the service program may make arrangements for nonemergency transportation. If arrangements are made, the service program shall remain at the scene

until nonemergency transportation arrives. During the wait for nonemergency transportation, however, the ambulance or nontransport service may respond to an emergency.

[ARC 0063C, IAB 4/4/12, effective 5/9/12]

**641—132.16(147A) Public access defibrillation.** Rescinded IAB 2/2/05, effective 3/9/05.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code chapter 147A.

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- <sup>1</sup> See IAB, Inspections and Appeals Department.
- <sup>2</sup> Rescission of paragraph 132.14(2) “f” inadvertently omitted from 2/2/05 Supplement.