

Advanced EMS Practice Above an Agency's License Level

Dan Manz, EMS Chief



Act 142

- ▶ Authorizes EMS practice above the scope of the agency's license level for advanced personnel with a protocol developed by the individual and the district medical advisor
- ▶ Requires this Act 142 consultation group to study this issue

Circumstances where this is possible

- ▶ An EMT-I who has a second affiliation with a service at the Basic level
- ▶ An EMT-P who has a second affiliation with a service at either the Basic or Intermediate level

Agency licensing status

- ▶ All ambulance services in VT are currently licensed at the Intermediate or Paramedic level (Intermediate- 49, Paramedic- 40)
- ▶ A majority of first responder services are licensed at the Intermediate or Paramedic level (Basic- 29, Intermediate- 56, Paramedic- 4)

The most likely scenario

- ▶ A VT certified Paramedic who is functioning with an Intermediate licensed EMS agency

How many personnel does the new law potentially affect today?

- ▶ EMT-Intermediates on a Basic agency:
 - 18 persons
- ▶ EMT-Paramedics on a Basic agency:
 - 0 persons
- ▶ EMT-Paramedics on an Intermediate agency
 - 31 persons

The current VT EMS rule

- ▶ Links the level of EMS practice by an individual to the license level of the EMS agency they are functioning with
 - The agency is responsible for:
 - ▶ Equipment (supplies, drugs, etc.)
 - ▶ Access to initial and continuing education
 - ▶ Liability insurance for the level of licensure
 - ▶ Personnel supervision and credentialing
 - ▶ The costs of providing the advanced level service

The current VT EMS rule

- ▶ Requires the prospective support of medical control for practice of advanced level personnel up to the level of the agency's license
- ▶ Answers the “which comes first” agency licensure or personnel certification question
 - Licensure at an advanced level allows a service to affiliate personnel up to the license level

The cost of advancing an ambulance agency's level of service

► For **Basic** to **Intermediate**

- Airway supplies- \$200 per vehicle
- IV supplies- \$100 per vehicle
- Pharmacy supplies- \$400 per vehicle
- Additional liability insurance- 10% above Basic level coverage
- Pulse oximetry and glucometers- \$400 per vehicle
- Salaries- Variable depending on agency
- Education costs- \$500-\$700 per course per person for initial tuition. Variable for continuing education

The cost of advancing an ambulance agency's level of service

► For **Intermediate** to **Paramedic**

- Airway supplies- \$500+ per vehicle
- 12 lead EKG monitor- \$10,000-20,000+ per vehicle
- Intraosseous infusion supplies- \$800 per vehicle
- Pharmacy supplies- \$500+ per vehicle
- Additional liability insurance- 10% above Intermediate level coverage
- Salaries- Variable depending on agency
- Education costs- \$5000+ per course per person for initial tuition. Variable for continuing education

Other state approaches: NH

- ▶ Licenses “units” (squads/agencies) at no specific level
- ▶ Licenses personnel based on an assurance from the unit of:
 - Affiliation
 - Practice under medical control at the level they are seeking a license for

Other state approaches: ME

- ▶ Licenses EMS agencies at multiple levels
 - All vehicles and at least one person on each transport must be at the license level
- ▶ An agency may be “permitted” at a level above their license level
 - Permitting requires at least one affiliated person licensed and one vehicle equipped to the agency’s *permitted* level

Other state approaches: MA

- ▶ Licenses agencies at multiple levels
- ▶ Personnel are limited to provide treatments up to the license level of the agency

Other state approaches: CT

- ▶ Currently updating their rules
- ▶ Proposed agency licensing at four levels
- ▶ License of agency and vehicle caps the level of service a person can provide
- ▶ Personnel expressly prohibited from wearing uniforms or insignia at a level higher than the agency's license

Other state approaches: RI

- ▶ Services licensed as ALS, BLS or ALS/BLS
 - This appears to establish the type of vehicle the agency may own and operate
- ▶ The ambulance vehicle's license level dictates the level of staffing required
 - An ALS person may not provide ALS on a BLS vehicle