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General Information

Authorization:

Authorization is separate from certification. Every provider should have a current certification issued by the Texas Department of State Health (TDSHS). The Medical Director is responsible for granting authorization.


Authorization is required to provide pre-hospital or out-of-hospital care to any patient within the MCHD EMS System. Certification level does not necessarily dictate authorization level. The Medical Director may authorize any provider to function at any level as per TDSHS Rule 157.11

To Obtain Authorization:

Prior to allowing any provider to function in a patient care delivery role, the applicant provides the following information:

- a. The individual's name, date of birth, address, social security number, and home phone number.
- b. The position for which the individual is applying.
- c. All applicants should provide a copy of the most current Texas Department of State Health Services certification/licensure in accordance with the State of *Texas Administrative Code, Title 25, Part I, Chapter 157, Subchapter C, Section 157.33, 157.34, 157.35 or 157.40*. -The copy should clearly show the **applicant's name, certification/licensure number, and expiration date**.
- d. A copy of a valid drivers license that clearly shows the **applicant's name, license number and expiration date**.
- e. All applicants should meet the criteria to be insurable by the current vehicle insurance vendor contracted to the District.
- f. **All applicants** are required to have a current (less than 2 years) **AHA Health Care Provider CPR OR an equivalent** course completion card with legible signatures and the date of the course.
- g. The following certifications are preferred for all applicants or should be obtained within 6 months of hire or first available class:
 - Advanced Cardiac Life Support (**ACLS**) course completion card from the American Heart Association – for Paramedics only
 - Basic Trauma Life Support (**BTLS**) course completion card is recommended. PHTLS may be substituted – for Paramedics and recommended for Basic and Intermediates
 - Pediatric Advanced Life Support (**PALS**) or an approved equivalent pediatric course is recommended – for Paramedics only

All initial applicants for employment as pre-hospital care providers with MCHD EMS will be required to successfully complete a written general knowledge examination from an approved test bank with an overall score of at least 80% , skills evaluation as per the Medical Director, interview process, and physical agility/health screening. Additionally,

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the applicant will be subject to a background check and verification of insurability with the contracted vehicle insurance provider. The applicant should be successful at each phase before moving on to the next phase.

The **Skills Evaluation** will be scenario-based evaluations with specific skills as per the Medical Director interjected at key points (i.e. an EMTP skill evaluation might be based on an AHA-ACLS scenario with skill evaluations for ET Intubation, Defibrillation, Pacing, or IV establishment).

Medical Authorization will be granted to an employee only after a probationary period in which the individual's assessment, decision making, and treatment skills are evaluated.

The Assistant Director EMS-Clinical Services shall establish a training and evaluation program for granting medical authorization.


The Medical Director maintains authority over all employees' ability to use medical skills. Therefore, the Medical Director or his designee may deny an employee the right to use his or her medical skills at any time during the course of employment with MCHD EMS.

The Medical Director or his/her designee may:

- Require an employee to undergo counseling;
- Require an employee to submit to remediation, including but are not limited to Retraining, Testing, or Field/hospital preceptorship
- Place an employee on medical authorization probation
- Reauthorize an employee at another level
- Deauthorize an employee,
- Recommend to the Texas Department of State Health Services that the employee be decertified.

To Maintain Authorization:

1. The employee should retain his certification/licensure with TDSHS. If, for any reason, there is a lapse in certification, the employee will be **suspended** immediately. Operations will be notified. The employee may not return to work in a patient care role until the problem has been rectified. The employee should show proof that TDSHS has reinstated the EMT certification/license. If any employee allows his/her certification to expire or be revoked more than once during employment, he/she will be **de-authorized immediately**.
2. The employee should maintain all of his/her card courses in current standing. If a card lapses, the employee will have thirty (30) days to replace that card. After the thirty (30) day period, the employee may be reauthorized to a lower level of practice and the Assistant Director EMS-Operations will be notified.

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3. The employee should participate in Continuing Education (CE) in accordance with the State of *Texas Administrative Code, Title 25, Part I, Chapter 157, Subchapter C, Section 157.38* and in accordance with the defined policies of MCHD EMS.
4. Attend all mandatory MCHD CE offerings.
5. If at any time the employee loses their EMS certification, driver's license, or is a part of an incident that might impact their insurability, the employee shall immediately notify their immediate Supervisor or Assistant Director EMS-Clinical Services. The employee may be removed from active duty pending a review of the situation.
6. If at any time the employee is under investigation by a law enforcement agency or the Texas Department of State Health Services, the EMS Director or designee will be notified immediately. The EMS Director shall determine the seriousness of the allegations as it relates to the individual's function as an employee. The employee may be removed from active duty pending a review of the situation.
7. No employee will function in an official capacity if they have any physical or mental impairment or disease which could reasonably be expected to either impair their ability to function or jeopardize the health and safety of the patient or public or fellow employees. If such a condition exists, the employee should immediately inform the On Duty Supervisor or higher authority.

AUTHORIZED INTERVENTIONS BY LEVEL

The following represents patient care activities to be performed by EMS personnel at their current level of authorization. All BLS activities are authorized on standing orders to be used as needed. Authorization for ALS activities is indicated in the specific protocol or procedure for each intervention. All interventions listed below indicated with a (*) require individual training and authorization by the medical director or his/her designee.

Emergency Care Attendant (Basic Life Support)

- Patient assessment
- Pulse oximetry
- Oxygen administration
- Use of oral adjuncts including oral and nasal airways, bag-valve mask device and oral suctioning.
- Provision of CPR as defined by the American Heart Association
- Vital signs
- Bandaging and splinting including traction splinting
- Cervical spine immobilization
- Manual techniques for airway provision, maintenance and support, relief of airway obstruction as prescribed by AHA
- Control of external hemorrhage
- Use of automatic CPR device* (Thumper)
- Automatic external defibrillator*

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- Emergency childbirth

Emergency Medical Technician

- **All skills listed for Emergency Care Attendant**
- Blood Glucose assessment
- Aspirin administration (under direction of In-Charge EMT-P)
- Nebulized Metered inhalers (under direction of In-Charge EMT-P)
- Administration of oral glucose
- Operation of CPAP device / portable ventilator


Special Allowance: If 12-Lead ECG equipment is readily available and patient condition and time permits, it is appropriate for a **properly trained** BLS provider to **ACQUIRE** a 12-Lead ECG on patients (in the presence or at the direction of their In-Charge Paramedic) treated under the “Acute Coronary Syndrome” SDO.

Emergency Medical Technician-Intermediate

- **All skills listed for EMT-Basic**
- Vascular access
- Intraosseous infusion
- IV Fluid administration
- Administration of Nitrous Oxide (under direction of In-Charge EMT-P)
- Administration of D50% (under direction of In-Charge EMT-P)
- Administration of IV Thiamine (under direction of In-Charge EMT-P)
- Administration of IV Narcan (under direction of In-Charge EMT-P)
- Orotracheal intubation
- Use of Qualitative CO₂ Detection *
- Use of approved secondary Airway Device (Combitube)*
- Use of PEEP
- Blood specimen collection
- MAST trousers

Personnel authorized at the basic or intermediate level **MAY NOT administer** any **controlled substance**, including **Pharmacologically Assisted Intubation (PAI)** or medications that are not specifically approved in the Clinical Policy or the Protocol.

Special Allowance: If 12-Lead ECG equipment is readily available and patient condition and time permits, it is appropriate for a **properly trained** ALS provider to **ACQUIRE** a 12-Lead ECG on patients (in the presence or at the direction of their In-Charge EMT-P) treated under the “Acute Coronary Syndrome” SDO.

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Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic

- **All skills listed above**
- All routes of medication administration (IV, IO, ET, SQ, SL, PR, IM)
- Obtaining and interpreting ECG
- Obtaining and interpreting 12-Lead ECG
- Vagal maneuvers
- Defibrillation / Cardioversion
- External Cardiac Pacing
- Nebulized bronchodilation
- Any other skill as directed by PII

Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic I or II (In-Charge Paramedic)

- **All skills listed above**
- Nasogastric intubation/lavage
- External jugular cannulation
- Nasotracheal intubation
- Chest decompression
- Surgical airway (with permission from on-line medical control)*
- Pharmacologically Assisted Intubation (with permission from on-line medical control)
- Pericardiocentesis (with permission from on-line medical control)*


Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic III

- **All skills listed above**
- All Therapies within the protocols including extended medical authorization and other special procedural skills as developed.
- Consults while on scene and those related to patients in which PIII contact has been made (patients assessed by PIII and transported by another unit).

Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic IV (future level of authorization)

Operations/Clinical Supervisor

- **All skills listed above**
- All Therapies within the protocols including extended medical authorization and other special procedural skills as developed.
- On-line medical direction through radio and/or phone consults as requested by Field staff.

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EMS Director/Assistant Directors EMS-Clinical Services and Operations

- **All skills listed above**
- All Therapies within the protocols including extended medical authorization and other special procedural skills as developed.
- On-line medical direction through radio and/or phone consults as requested by Field staff.

Attendant level personnel may practice under the supervision of a fully authorized paramedic to the full extent of their authorization. Clinical authorization is assigned to an individual, and not the operational position.

Practicing Beyond Your Certification

MCHD EMS personnel who are asked by a physician, nurse, paramedic or other person to perform procedures that are outside of their level of training, certification, or protocol should adhere to the following guidelines:

1. Employees should inform the person giving the directive that their training, certification, and/or protocol does not cover the requested procedure and that they should respectfully decline to perform the procedure.
2. Employees should document the procedure requested, the name and position of the person who requested the procedure, and the outcome of the employee’s refusal to perform the procedure.

Failure to follow this policy may result in the suspension and/or revocation of an employee’s medical authorization.

Employees should not perform any skill that they have not been trained, certified, and authorized to perform.

Employee – Student Relationship

Employees enrolled in Texas Department of State Health Services (TDSHS) approved certification courses and assigned to a unit in a student capacity may perform advanced skills within the scope of the course in which they are enrolled. The skills are to be performed under the direct supervision of an approved preceptor and/or medical supervisor. All other rules and regulations regarding student conduct should be observed.

Employees enrolled in TDSHS approved certification courses should not perform advanced skills beyond their current certification level while in the course of their normal job duties.