

Advanced Life Support Affiliation Agreement

This Agreement is made and entered into on the January 01, 2005 , between the Boston Public Health Commission acting through its Emergency Medical Services bureau (the Ambulance Service) and the Boston Medical Center (the Hospital).

Preamble:

- The Ambulance Service is licensed to provide pre-hospital Advanced Life Support (ALS) emergency medical services, and its emergency medical technicians (EMTs) are certified at the appropriate ALS level of care to allow the Ambulance Service to deliver ALS at its level of licensure; and
- A key state regulatory requirement and clinical component of providing quality pre-hospital care at the ALS level is ensuring ALS personnel receive effective medical oversight services from a committed hospital with an emergency department staffed by physicians 24 hours per day, and
- The Hospital is equipped and committed to providing medical oversight services as described herein for the provision of pre-hospital ALS care by the EMTs certified to provide ALS care employed by the Ambulance Service; and
- The parties are committed to meeting the requirements of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health's (Department's) Emergency Medical Services Regulations, 105 CMR 170.300, regarding affiliation agreements between an ambulance service licensed to provide Advanced Life Support services and a hospital with an Emergency Department staffed by physicians 24 hours per day, in order to establish an effective plan for medical oversight.

THE PARTIES AGREE AS FOLLOW:

The Ambulance Service Agrees:

1. To staff its ambulances assigned to provide ALS services with EMTs fully trained, oriented and certified at the appropriate ALS level.
2. To equip all ALS ambulances with the communication, treatment, and monitoring equipment required by the Department and the Hospital in order to provide effective EMS at the level of care for which the ambulance service is licensed.
3. To provide patient care in accordance with the Statewide Treatment Protocols.
4. To participate in the quality assurance/quality improvement (QA/QI) program operated under the direction of the Affiliate Hospital Medical Director, and in accordance with requirements of this Agreement.
5. To notify the Medical Director of all certified EMTs requiring authorization to practice.

6. To notify the Medical Director of all personnel changes involving certified EMTs who will provide pre-hospital ALS.
7. To provide the Medical Director with information regarding any certified EMTs who provide ALS care against whom there has been any disciplinary action taken by the Department, and/or for whom any remediation has been ordered or indicated.
8. To ensure that its certified EMTs are providing ALS care in accordance with the Medical Director's authorization to practice.
9. To provide the Medical Director with a copy of its current dispatch protocols.
10. To provide the Medical Director with a copy of all trip records, incident reports and, upon request, any other pertinent patient care related documents and data, related to the Ambulance Service's provision of pre-hospital EMS in cases in which ALS was requested, even if not provided.
11. To ensure its certified EMTs providing ALS care participate in remediation, training and retraining, as necessary, under the oversight of the Medical Director, or his or her designee.
12. To follow Regional point-of-entry plan(s) approved by the Department and other relevant regulations, policies and administrative requirements of the Department.
13. To obtain those controlled substances indicated in the Statewide Treatment Protocols from the hospital and to adhere to the hospital's policies in regard to handling, dispensing, disposal and accounting of such substances.

The Hospital Agrees:

To provide medical control oversight to Boston Emergency Medical Services personnel.

1. To designate a medical director (Medical Director), who shall have authority over the clinical and patient care aspects of the Ambulance Service's provision of pre-hospital ALS services, including but not limited to the authorization to practice of its EMS personnel, and the denial or withdrawal of such authorization to practice.
2. To provide on-line medical direction in accordance with the Statewide Treatment Protocols 24 hours a day, seven days a week, by a hospital-based physician(s).
3. To comply with the State EMS Communication Plan regarding medical direction communications.
4. To operate, under the direction of the Medical Director, an effective quality assurance/quality improvement (QA/QI) program, in which on-line medical direction physician(s) shall participate.
5. To operate said QA/QI program in accordance with QA/QI standards and protocols.
6. To ensure that said QA/QI program shall include, but not be limited to, regular review of trip records and other data pertinent to the Ambulance Service's provision of patient care in cases in which ALS services were requested, whether ALS services were provided or not. Such review shall take place on an ongoing, regular basis through the ambulance service's Research, Training, and Quality Improvement Division.
7. In conjunction with the Boston Emergency Medical Service Research, Training, and Quality Improvement Division, operate a program for skill maintenance and

review for each of the Ambulance Service's certified EMTs providing ALS care, in accordance with standards and protocols for effective skill maintenance and review.

8. To ensure each of the Ambulance Service's certified EMTs providing ALS care have access to remediation, training and retraining, as necessary, under the oversight of the Medical Director, or his or her designee. Such access to remediation, training and retraining shall at minimum include the provision of additional clinical and/or didactic training; skill maintenance in ER, OR, ICU, or simulation laboratory setting; participation in research projects; or other means as deemed necessary and appropriate by the Medical Director.
9. To provide regular consultation opportunities between its medical and nursing staffs and the Ambulance Service's certified EMTs providing ALS care, to review and discuss various aspects concerning the performance of the Ambulance Service's delivery of ALS care, including, but not limited to, attendance at morbidity and mortality rounds and chart reviews, presentations during monthly training sessions, tabletop exercises, and ride-alongs observer programs.

Both Parties Agree:

1. To implement and maintain a program for skill maintenance and review of the Ambulance Service's certified EMTs providing ALS care, in accordance with standards and protocols for effective skill maintenance and review.
2. To implement and maintain a procedure by which a Hospital physician can maintain recorded direct verbal contact with the EMT regarding a particular patient's condition and order, when appropriate, the administration of a medication or treatment for that patient.
3. To be responsive to the other party's concerns and needs, acting in a timely manner to resolve all problems and meet reasonable needs.
4. To review this document at least annually, and make any updates necessary to ensure it is consistent with current practice.
5. To notify the Department of Public Health's Office of Emergency Medical Services in writing should any changes occur altering the specifics of the agreement.