



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

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**Certificate of Waiver for
Emergency Medical Technician Scope of Practice
Pursuant to the Provisions of the New Jersey Administrative Code,
Specifically, N.J.A.C. 8:40 and N.J.A.C. 8:40A, a waiver is issued to:**

All New Jersey Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) providing Basic Life Support (BLS) services on a BLS Ambulance and for a BLS Ambulance Service

**Granting relief from the limited scope of practice set out in N.J.A.C. 8:40-7.1(b)6 and 13i
and N.J.A.C. 8:40A-10.1(b)6 and 13i**

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:40-7.1 and N.J.A.C. 8:40A-10.1, the skills and procedures an EMT is authorized to perform are limited to those outlined in the National Standard Curriculum for EMT-Basics. In 2009, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) Office of Emergency Medical Services replaced the NHTSA National Standard Curriculum with the National Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Education Standards. These Standards define the competencies, clinical behaviors, and judgments that EMTs must meet according to the practice guidelines outlined in the Scope of Practice. Due to outdated regulations, multiple publications of the National EMS Education Standards, and the evolving National Scope of Practice, it is necessary to waive certain provisions of the New Jersey Administrative Code to align the EMTs' scope of practice with the current National Scope of Practice.

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 8:40-1.4 and N.J.A.C. 8:40A-1.4, the New Jersey Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) may waive a rule provision if the waiver would not "[e]ndanger the life of any person;...[e]ndanger the public health, safety or welfare; or ... [a]dversely affect the provision of basic life support care." OEMS finds that expanding the EMTs scope of practice will not endanger the public health or adversely affect the provision of basic life support care. Rather, this waiver will assist with preserving public health by improving access to a higher level of care and evidence-based medicine for vulnerable populations with limited access to medications or medical care. Accordingly, OEMS is issuing this waiver of N.J.A.C. 8:40-7.1 and N.J.A.C. 8:40A-10.1 to expand the EMTs' scope of practice. This waiver includes the administration of the following medications and procedures, and the performance of skills.

1. Albuterol Sulfate administered via metered dose inhaler or nebulizer, for patients experiencing wheezing.
2. Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) for patients experiencing shortness of breath secondary to pulmonary edema.
3. Positive End Expiratory Pressure (PEEP) valves for all patients requiring bag valve mask ventilation.
4. Glucometers for patients exhibiting signs of altered mental status, including lethargy,

unconsciousness, or other symptoms that may be consistent with a diabetic emergency.

A New Jersey EMT, operating under an approved BLS Ambulance Service, may add any of the above medications, skills, and/or procedures to the scope of practice under the following terms and conditions:

1. The BLS Ambulance Service shall submit a complete application via email to ems@doh.nj.gov containing:
 - a. A cover letter from the owner, Chief, or Chief Executive and Medical Director responsible for the BLS Ambulance Service requesting their BLS Ambulance Service be authorized to expand their BLS scope of practice. The letter shall include:
 - i. which medications, procedures, and/or skills they are requesting approval.
 - ii. confirmation and agreement to submit patient care reports electronically.
1. The BLS Ambulance Service shall:
 - a. submit data via electronic patient care reporting (ePCR) in accordance with N.J.S.A. 26:2K-67.
 - b. utilize the most current version of the National Emergency Medical Services Information System (NEMSIS).
 - c. Utilize the employee’s NJ EMS ID number and legal name as the crewmember identification.
 - d. Conduct 100% chart review to ensure skills are performed appropriately and documentation is completed within 24 hours.
2. Documentation shall utilize the NEMSIS fields outlined in the table below.

Description	NEMSIS Code	Notes
Medication (any)	eMedications.03	Any medication administered must have all 5 elements completed/validated
	eMedications.04	
	eMedications.05	
	eMedications.06	
	eMedications.07	
Blood Glucose Level	eProcedure.03	Glucose measurement, blood (procedure) (Code 33747003)
	eVitals.18	Numeric Result
CPAP	eProcedure.03	Continuous positive airway pressure ventilation treatment (47545007)
	eMedications.03	

	eMedications.04	eMedication.03 = "O2" and eMedication.04 = "CPAP" (Code 9927067)
PEEP	eProcedure.03	Positive end expiratory pressure ventilation therapy, initiation, and management (Code 45851008)

3. For more information about electronic patient care reporting, data collection, and software available free of charge go to: https://www.nj.gov/health/ems/data_resources/index.shtml or contact the office at (609) 633-7777.
- iii. The full name, signature, email, and telephone number of the BLS Ambulance Service's medical director and the owner, chief, or chief executive.
 1. The BLS Ambulance Service's medical director shall:
 - a. Approve and support the expansion of the EMTs scope of practice under the BLS Ambulance Service.
 - b. Provide education, oversight, verify EMT competency, and approval of all elements identified in the BLS Ambulance Service's request to expand the scope of practice for their EMTs.
 - c. Perform 100% chart review for all interactions involving the administration or use of the EMT's expanded scope of practice under the BLS Ambulance Service.
 - i. The first six (6) months shall be completed by the physician medical director.
 - ii. The physician medical director may delegate the chart review after the first six months. The BLS Ambulance Service shall maintain written documentation outlining who has been delegated the responsibility, when the delegation took place, and under what circumstances.
 - b. The Physician Medical Director's **education program** curriculum, lesson plan, cognitive examination, and the competency assessment instrument for each medication, skill, and/or procedure in which the BLS Ambulance Service is applying for under this waiver.
 - c. A written **clinical protocol** for each item the BLS Ambulance Service is applying for under this waiver.
 - d. Written policies and/or procedures:
 - i. **To initiate and request advanced life support (ALS)** services for all patients experiencing:

1. respiratory difficulty,
 2. hypoglycemia and/or hyperglycemia with associated altered mental status, including lethargy, unconsciousness, or other symptoms that may be consistent with a diabetic emergency.
- ii. Proper **storage and maintenance** of the selected medications and/or equipment, according to the manufacturer's recommendations, approved under this waiver.
 - iii. **Maintenance of** sufficient quantities of **equipment/medication** (nebulizers, metered dosed inhalers, albuterol, spacers, glucometers, CPAP and PEEP devices) to allow for the administration of therapeutic doses of the medication or agent as approved under this waiver for the BLS Ambulance Service.
 1. The policy shall include maintenance of stock for each ambulance under this waiver for the BLS Ambulance Service.
 - iv. Initial and annual **assessment of competency** for each medication, procedure, and skill approved for the BLS Ambulance Service under this waiver by all EMTs.
 - v. **Quality Assurance and Quality Improvement.**
 1. The policy shall include 100% of patient care. If delegated after 6 months, the policy shall explain the process and threshold for secondary physician review.
 - vi. **Documentation and use** of each medication, procedure, and skill approved for the BLS Ambulance Service under this waiver.
 - vii. Ensure that the **maintenance and testing of all medical equipment** are conducted in accordance with Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) Standards.
 - viii. If the BLS Ambulance Service is requesting approval to add glucometers to the scope of practice for their EMTs they shall obtain and provide a **CLIA Waiver** Certificate for Glucometry.
 1. You may contact NJ CLIA at CLIALab@doh.nj.gov or (609) 406-6824.

Upon receipt of the information required above, the Department shall transmit email and/or telephone correspondence to the BLS Ambulance Service indicating whether its submission is complete or whether additional information is required in order for the BLS Ambulance Service to implement this waiver. Once approved to implement this waiver, the BLS Ambulance Service shall:

1. Maintain education class records including the date, time, location, topic, instructor, student roster (including the student's full name and NJ EMS ID number), examination, and competency assessment. These records shall be made available to the Department, upon demand.
2. Maintain copies of all documentation associated with their application to implement this waiver. All documentation shall be made available to the Department, upon demand.
3. Agencies shall report the following to the Department via an Unusual Occurrence Report if any of the following occurs:
 - a. Attempts to treat hypoglycemia, asthma, or COPD were unsuccessful.
 - i. Complications/adverse events such as device malfunction, deterioration in clinical status etc.
 - ii. Any deviation in protocol.
4. Agencies shall provide the Department with the emergency department disposition for every patient treated with any of the medications, procedures, or skills approved under this waiver.

An EMT acting under this waiver shall:

1. Have successfully completed the BLS Ambulance Services' educational program for every medication, procedure, and skill applied for by the BLS Ambulance Service and approved by the Department under this waiver.
 - a. The EMT shall only utilize the approved skills while operating for that specific BLS Ambulance Service.
 - i. Each BLS Ambulance Service's approval is separate and must be individually granted.
2. Have successfully completed initial and annual competencies for every medication, procedure, and skill applied for by the BLS Ambulance Service and approved by the Department under this waiver.
3. Complete an electronic care report (ePCR) for all patient encounters.
 - a. Document a complete assessment, including a full set of vital signs (i.e. blood pressure, heart rate, skin color and temperature, respiratory rate, pulse oximetry, and lung sounds) prior to and after utilization of every medication, procedure, and skill applied for by the BLS Ambulance Service and approved by the Department under this waiver.

This waiver supersedes all previously issued waivers. All BLS Ambulance Services currently utilizing the medications, procedures, and/or skills outlined herein must submit an application within 30 days in accordance with the requirements specified in this waiver. This waiver remains valid until the expiration date listed below, unless otherwise suspended, modified, or revoked by the Department.

The Department reserves the right to suspend, modify, or revoke a licensed BLS Ambulance Service's ability to utilize this waiver for failure to adhere to the requirements outlined above and/or violation of N.J.A.C. 8:40-1.1 et seq. and/or N.J.A.C. 8:40A-1.1 et seq. or any instance that the Department deems to be a threat to public health and safety.

FOR: Kaitlan Baston, MD, MSc, DFASAM
Commissioner



BY: Candace Gardner, Paramedic
Director
Office of Emergency Medical Services

DATE ISSUED: June 24, 2024

WAIVER CONTROL NUMBER: 24 - N.J.A.C. 8:40-7.1 & 8:40A-10.1 - 14

EXPIRES: Not Applicable