



EMS Information Bulletin 2018-18

DATE: August 7, 2018

SUBJECT: CCT Air Protocol-Use of Department-approved agency air medical protocols

TO: EMS Agencies with Air Medical Services

FROM: Dylan Ferguson, Director
Bureau of Emergency Medical Services
PA Department of Health
(717) 787-8740

A handwritten signature in blue ink, enclosed in a blue oval. The signature appears to be 'Dylan Ferguson'.

The purpose of this bulletin is to clarify the use of an EMS agency's department-approved air ambulance protocols on ground critical care units owned by a licensed air ambulance agency.

Pursuant to 28 Pa Code § 1027.40 (e), an EMS agency that operates an air ambulance service may establish and follow EMS protocols that address EMS not covered by the department's EMS protocols, provided those protocols are approved by the department.

When an EMS agency operates an air ambulance service, the agency's EMS providers may use their department-approved protocols when serving on a ground critical care transport (CCT) ambulance that is owned and operated by the air agency. These protocols may be used, when the CCT ambulance is staffed by patient care providers in a way that is identical to the routine staffing of the services air medical units as it relates to provider certification.

If an EMS agency that operates an air ambulance and a CCT ambulance, does not staff the ground CCT ambulance in an identical manner to the air ambulance, they must be compliant with the staffing requirements as outlined in § 1027.39 (b) and (c) and may not utilize the agency specific protocols, but instead will utilize the Statewide Critical Care Transport Protocols.

Furthermore, related to EMIBS 2018-17 any air ambulance service may utilize its department-approved agency protocols on any licensed EMS vehicle. However, the unit still must be staffed by patient care providers in a manner identical to the routine staffing of the service's air medical units as it relates to provider certification.

Please contact the Bureau of EMS with any questions.