



Oklahoma State Department of Health
Creating a State of Health

June 4, 2014

To: Ambulance Services and Emergency Medical Response Agencies

From: Dale Adkerson,
Administrative Program Manager- EMS
OSDH- Emergency Systems

Re: 2014 State Approved Protocols

Last year, the Department released the 2013 protocols for agencies to review and implement. At this time, the 2014 protocols are available for implementation.

The following are important issues you need to be aware of:

- * The new 2014 Oklahoma EMS State protocols became effective on May 1, 2014.
- * The 1997 and 2002 version of Oklahoma EMS State protocols are superseded and may not be used after April 1, 2013. The 2014 version is an update to the 2013 version. The specific changes are distributed with the protocols. The 2014 changes supersede the applicable sections of the 2013 protocols, not the entire document.
- * EMS agencies and staff may only operate under protocols that have been approved by the Oklahoma State Department of Health.
- * Any new protocols submitted for approval should be sequentially numbered and include supporting documentation.

Agencies have several options available regarding the specific 2014 changes to the 2013 state protocols:

1. An agency may choose to adopt the changes, resulting in the 2013 protocols becoming 2014 protocols,
2. An agency may choose to adopt some of the changes, requiring the agency to provide justification and documentation supporting the decision to not implement all changes.
3. Altering a change, which will require an agency to submit an appropriate justification and supporting documentation,
4. An agency may request to continue to use their previous approved protocols. (This does not include the obsolete or superseded versions, and is subject to review prior to renewal)

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By August 1, all agencies are required to submit documentation regarding the 2014 updates. The documentation to be submitted depends on which option an agency and medical director chooses. The documentation includes:

- A. A letter from the Agency Director and Medical Director stating the 2014 updates are adopted. The letter is to have both of these signatures. An updated Authorized Procedure List (APL) with the required signatures is also needed. **There is not a need to submit any additional documentation or a copy of the protocols or changes.**
- B. A letter from the Agency Director and Medical Director that details the adoption and deletion of some of the 2014 changes. **This will need to have the two signatures, and updated APL, and any additional documentation that justifies and supports the choices for inclusion and exclusion.**
- C. A letter from the Agency Director and Medical Director that details any alterations to the 2014 change. **This will need to have the two signatures, and updated APL, and any additional documentation that justifies and supports the requested changes.**
- D. A letter from the Agency Director and Medical Director that states the agency will not implement the 2014 changes. **This will need to have the two signatures and an updated APL.** If an agency requests to continue to use their protocols, then additional documentation may be required by the Department.

The process for protocol approval has not changed. Protocol changes will be submitted to OSDH electronically. Protocols are reviewed by the Emergency System Staff and by the State EMS Medical Director, Timothy Cathy, M.D.

Enclosed with this letter is a cd that has the 2013 protocols, the 2014 protocols, the 2014 changes identified, and the APL. The protocols may also be downloaded from this website: http://www.ok.gov/health/Protective_Health/Emergency_Systems/EMS_Division/index.html

If you have question or concerns regarding this process, please contact Dale Adkerson, Dr. Cathey, or Robert Irby at 405.271.4027, or by email at: dalea@health.ok.gov; timc@health.ok.gov; or roberti@health.ok.gov.

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