

**STATEMENT OF BASIS AND PURPOSE
AND SPECIFIC STATUTORY AUTHORITY FOR**

Proposed Amendments to Rules Pertaining to Emergency Medical Services
(6 CCR 1015-3, Chapters One, Three, Four and Five)

March 16, 2011

Basis and Purpose:

Four primary purposes are addressed by the proposed amendments to the Rules Pertaining to Emergency Medical Services:

1. Adopt the recommendations in the *National Emergency Medical Scope of Practice Model* and the *National Emergency Medical Services Education Standards* regarding education and certification for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) providers so as to align the department's education and provider certification program with these updated national education standards and scope of practice levels.
2. Remedy a technical error in the air ambulance licensing rules identified by Legislative Legal Services after the adoption of these rules in January 2008. The current definition of "air ambulance service" as an organization licensed by the department is inconsistent with the rule authorizing an exception to licensing requirements for air ambulance services in exigent circumstances. This definitional revision does not change any rule requirements.
3. Replace the incorporation by reference material in the air ambulance licensing rules, specifically the Accreditation Standards of the Commission on Accreditation of Medical Transport Systems, with later amendments to or editions of the incorporated material, and add information to the rules where other materials are incorporated by reference to conform with the requirements of House Bill 10-1235.
4. Correct grammatical or typographical errors or obsolete provisions and reformat the rules, currently organized by sections, into chapters reflecting the specific regulatory functions addressed in each chapter as follows:
 - a. Chapter One: Rules Pertaining to EMS Education and Certification
 - b. Chapter Two: Rules Pertaining to EMS Practice and Medical Director Oversight (promulgated by the department's Executive Director)
 - c. Chapter Three: Rules Pertaining to Emergency Medical Services Data and Information Collection and Record Keeping
 - d. Chapter Four: Rules Pertaining to Licensure of Ground Ambulance Services
 - e. Chapter Five: Rules Pertaining to Air Ambulance Licensing

These Rules are Promulgated Pursuant to the Following Statutes:

Section 25-3.5-101 *et seq.*, C.R.S., specifically C.R.S. 25-3.5, parts 1, 2, 3 and 5 and section 24-4-103 (12.5), C.R.S.

Major Factual and Policy Issues Encountered:

The major consideration regarding these rules is for Colorado's Emergency Medical and Trauma Services (EMTS) community to continue the philosophy of following the national standards and recommendations for EMS education and certification and to be aligned with other participants in the national EMS support system. Adoption of these proposed amendments moves Colorado's EMTS system toward the implementation of the *National EMS Agenda for the Future* and the *National EMS Education Agenda for the Future* which, along with the guidance documents,

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collectively outline the vision for nationally consistent EMS educational standards and credentialing services across the U.S. The proposed amendments maintain all current scope of practice levels or categories and also add a new category of Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT), which is expected to provide additional utility to EMS organizations throughout the state and to benefit the EMS provider community through the transferability of EMS provider certification between states.

Other considerations regarding these rules are to correct a technical error, ensure contemporary standards or guidelines are incorporated by reference as applicable, and to provide a clearer organizational structure to the rules for the benefit of stakeholders and the public.

As part of the process of revising this rule, a task force, comprised of members from the EMTS community, including the State Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Advisory Council (SEMTAC), regional emergency medical and trauma advisory councils (RETAC), EMS providers and other vested stakeholders, was formed in 2008 to begin discussions on the implications of the National Scope of Practice/Education Standards for Colorado. After providing initial recommendations to the department, this task force was reinstated in 2010 as the workgroup to develop the proposed amendments to these rules.

The Colorado Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Act requires that the SEMTAC review and approve rules prior to their adoption by the State Board of Health. Section 25-3.5-104(4)(d), C.R.S. The SEMTAC has reviewed and approved these proposed rules.

Alternative Rules Considered:

In developing these rules, the Department considered different possibilities to meet its statutory requirements, needs of various stakeholders, and its responsibilities for public health and safety. No other alternatives were deemed appropriate.