

January 30, 2007

To All Vermont EMS District 6 Services:

This is to clarify some questions about medical control and privilege to practice as a paramedic in District 6. This document addresses only medical control and privilege to practice issues. Individual services may have policies regarding first response, intercept, mutual aid, etc. which are not addressed here.

In general, paramedics have privilege to practice when the following three conditions are met:

- 1) Certified as a paramedic by VT EMS
- 2) Approved to practice at the paramedic level by the District Medical Advisor
- 3) On duty with a service licensed at the paramedic level

Questions have arisen about specific situations, such as paramedic first responders and paramedic intercept situations. Guidelines are given below.

A) Paramedic Intercept

When on duty with a paramedic service and requested to intercept an ambulance from another service, a paramedic may practice at the paramedic level under the license of the paramedic service with whom he or she is responding. The paramedic may provide care at the paramedic level in either ambulance; it is not necessary to move the patient into the paramedic ambulance in order for a paramedic to practice.

Policies for the provision of paramedic intercept services are determined by the paramedic service provider agency and may be handled as mutual aid calls or by contract to provide such services. This document focuses on the issue of privilege to practice and does not address other policy considerations, dispatch procedures, paramedic dispatch criteria, charges, etc.

B) First Response

A paramedic acting as a first responder in an area covered by the paramedic service with which he or she is affiliated may practice at the paramedic level under the license of that paramedic service, as long as an ambulance from that paramedic service is responding. If an ambulance from another service is responding, the paramedic practices at the level of licensure of the first responder service.

C) Mutual Aid

When paramedics on duty with a paramedic service are requested to respond outside their paramedic service's area as a mutual aid response, they may practice at the paramedic level, even though they are not in their service's primary response area.

D) On Duty With Another (non-paramedic) Service

When a paramedic responds as a member of a service not licensed at the paramedic level, he or she practices at the level and according to the protocols of the service with which he or she is responding.

E) Off Duty & Out of Area

A paramedic who is off duty and out of his or her service's area, and is not responding as a member of a service with whom he or she is affiliated, does not have privilege to practice and provides care at the EMT-B level.

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