



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Date: May 13, 2010

To: Connecticut EMS Care providers
Connecticut EMS Organizations
Connecticut EMS Medical Directors
Connecticut EMS Coordinators

From: Richard Kamin, M.D., FACEP
EMS Medical Director

Re: Tactical EMS

Recently there have been questions regarding how to properly set up a tactical emergency medical support (TEMS) program and the legitimacy of TEMS education being offered in the state. TEMS educational programs have been offered in Connecticut, but from a statewide perspective, **OEMS, CEMSMAC and the EMS Advisory Board have NOT determined their functional role in the EMS system, instructor qualifications or oversee course content.** Local sponsor hospital medical directors may perceive a benefit from TEMS training but **any care provided by individuals functioning in a TEMS role should be in compliance with the regulations pertaining to EMS.**

A properly set up TEMS component would be made up of currently certified or licensed provider (s) with authorization to practice from a sponsor hospital (medical oversight). As in a non-TEMS environment, both paramedics and EMTs need authorization to practice from a sponsor hospital/medical oversight. **The provider (s) must also be working as part of a properly certified or licensed EMS service.** Connecticut regulation 19a-179-9. Specifically prohibited acts states (i) No person, regardless of certification, shall independently perform treatment methods identified in Sec. 19a-179-12 (b) unless acting as part of the emergency medical services system, in accordance with Sec. 19a-179-12. The EMS service may be already established (designated first responder for the municipality in question) or could be a newly formed EMS service (there are examples of police entities that have formed "supplemental first responder services" to address this issue).

Although a formal description may emerge in the future **the term "tactical medic" has no recognized definition in the Connecticut EMS system.** Until further defined, it is up to the provider, EMS service, the sponsor hospital/medical oversight and the law enforcement organization that will be utilizing the TEMS program to ensure that any training undertaken will meet the operational needs of the provider. Any training should be approved beforehand by the sponsor hospital/medical oversight as well. Ultimately, the legitimacy of the practice provided can only be upheld by maintaining the individual EMS provider's status in the EMS system as a whole.

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