



NORTHAMPTON COUNTY

Department of EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES



STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINES

TOPIC: Physical & Immunizations	SOG #: 2.3
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Written by: Hollye B. Carpenter	Revised: 03/10/2014
Approved by: Hollye B. Carpenter	Adopted: 03/15/2013

PURPOSE

To establish guidelines related to the health and safety of all EMS Providers

SCOPE

All EMS Providers

CONTENT

Physical Exam:

As an EMS provider of the Northampton County Department of Emergency Medical Services, the EMS provider will be required to lift a minimum of 125lbs. This includes but is not limited to the lifting and moving of patients to and from stretchers, or any other device that aids in movement of patients; pulling, pushing and controlling the movement of machinery (i.e. oxygen cylinders, cardiac monitors, backboards, stair chairs, and stretchers); performing CPR, viewing digital displays, monitoring oscilloscope readouts, hearing audible alarms, auscultation blood pressures and hearing heart and lung sounds. Other skills include but are not limited to: peripheral vein-puncture, endotracheal intubation and administering pharmaceutical agents.

- Must have a complete physical exam every two years.
- This exam may be completed by our department physician or a physician of choice.
- When the department physician is used, NCEMS will be responsible for all costs incurred above and beyond the EMS provider’s insurance payments, including any applicable co-pays.
- Should the EMS provider choose to use his own physician he/she will be responsible for all costs incurred.
- Typically the physical exam shall be scheduled by the EMS Director or designee during work hours. However if scheduling does not allow this the EMS Provider will be compensated for the time.
- EMS Providers shall provide a copy of the “Physical Exam and Health History” form to the physician for completion.

Documentation



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Only official documents will be accepted. They must be from the health department, school, physician or military. Other reliable sources may be considered acceptable by the EMS Director.

Declination Forms

It is at the sole discretion of the EMS Director to allow the submission of a declination form in lieu of receiving a vaccine.

Immunization Requirements:

- 2 step PPD (tuberculin skin test) or records of annual PPDs for three (3) years, with most recent , 12 months ago);
- Hepatitis B Vaccine Series;
- Tetanus Toxoid (Td) Vaccine or Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis (TDap) Vaccine;
- Influenza Vaccine;
- Measles, Mumps & Rubella (MMR) Vaccine or positive titer;
- Varicella (Chickenpox) Vaccine or positive titer;
- Poliomyelitis (Polio) Vaccine.

The EMS department will be responsible for all costs incurred above and beyond the EMS provider’s insurance payments, including any applicable co-pays or deductibles.

Immunization Detail:

Tuberculin Sensitivity Test (aka the Mantoux Test, Pirquet Test or PPD)

- 2 step PPD test → The second plant must be no less than seven (7) days or more than twenty (21) days from the first plant. Readings must occur within 48-72 hours. It should be within six (6) months of intended clinical and never more than one (1) year old.
- Annual PPD → Must have documentation of annual tests for the past three (3) years. The most recent many never be more than one (1) year old.
- Healthcare workers with a reading of >10mm constitutes a positive result. Positive PPDs also require a chest X-ray, which must also be documented.

Hepatitis B Vaccine Series

- Generally three doses are required. The first is given any time. The second dose is given at least one (1) month from the first dose. The third dose is given



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six (6) months after the first dose. If the series is broken it can be picked up at any point.

Tetanus Toxoid (Td) Vaccine or Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis (TDap)

- The Tetanus Toxoid (Td) Vaccine booster must have been received within the last ten (10) years.
- The Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis (TDap) booster should be a substituted one-time dose for the Td. It must be within the last two (2) years. It may be received at any time, regardless of the last Td booster received.

Influenza Vaccine

- Annual dose given, typically in the late Fall.

Measles, Mumps & Rubella (MMR)

- EMS Provider born on or after January 1, 1957 require two (2) measles, two (2) mumps and one (1) rubella vaccinations or a positive titer for each.
- EMS Provider born on or before December 31, 1958 requires one (1) measles, one (1) mumps and one (1) rubella or a positive titer for each.

Varicella (Chickenpox)

- Students must document the receipt of a two (2) shot series or a positive titer. Verbal acknowledgement of disease is not acceptable. Doses are typically administered four (4) to eight (8) weeks apart, if received after the age of 13.

Poliomyelitis (Polio) Vaccine

- Most adults 18 and older do not need vaccine because they were vaccinated as children. Children get four (4) doses of IPV.
- Adults who have never been vaccinated against polio should get three (3) doses of IPV. Two (2) doses separated by one (1) to two (2) months, and a third dose six (6) to twelve (12) months after the second.
- Adults who have had one (1) to two (2) doses of polio vaccine in the past should get the remaining one (1) or two (2) doses. It doesn't matter how long it has been since the earlier dose(s).
- Adults who have had three (3) or more doses of polio vaccine in the past may get a booster dose of IPV.