



EMS COMMISSION GUIDANCE ON EMTS ADMINISTERING VACCINATIONS

To: EMS Commission

From: Kraig Kinney, State EMS Director
Dr. Eric Yazel, State EMS Medical Director

Re: EMTs administering vaccinations

BACKGROUND

During the public health emergency, the Governor suspended IC 16-18-2-33.5 for the statutory definition of “basic life support” which indicated in section (b) that “the term does not include invasive medical care techniques or advanced life support” other than those authorized in statute like epinephrine. This suspension of the provision permitted the EMS Commission to authorize EMTs to administer COVID vaccinations. This was heavily used by EMS in responding to the pandemic and EMTs were administering COVID vaccinations. There were requests to also administer influenza vaccinations, however, the specific suspension clause only permitted COVID vaccinations. The public health emergency ended earlier this year.

SEA 1314 (2022) removed the exclusion of “invasive medical care techniques” effective July 1, 2022. Note that this does not give EMTs a blanket invitation to perform invasive medical care techniques as they must still be authorized in the scope of practice.

There is a need for EMS to continue providing COVID vaccinations and annual influenza vaccinations. Both are safe vaccinations that can be performed with medical oversight and little additional education. EMTs already are authorized to perform intramuscular administration of epinephrine in the approved Indiana EMT 2020 scope of practice.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

That the approved 2020 EMT scope of practice be amended to include:

EMTs are permitted to administer intramuscular or intranasal, unit-dosed, premeasured COVID vaccinations and seasonal influenza vaccinations with medical director approval and oversight, training and written medical protocols.

1. **SECTION IV SKILL – MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION – ROUTES** be modified for “Intramuscular” to reflect in the comments that, in addition to the epinephrine administration, that EMTs also may administer COVID and seasonal influenza vaccinations with medical director approval and oversight, training and written medical protocols.
2. **SECTION V MEDICAL DIRECTOR APPROVED MEDICATIONS** be modified for “immunizations” to include EMT level with an “X” as approved and a clarifying comment that EMTs also may administer COVID and seasonal influenza vaccinations with medical director approval and oversight, training and written medical protocols.