

STANDARDS FOR THE USE OF PARAMEDICS FOR VACCINE ADMINISTRATION AT MASS VACCINATION SITES

EMT-paramedics (paramedics) can be a valuable supplement to the public health workforce when mass vaccinations are required to address a pandemic or other biological threat. To qualify for certification as a paramedic a person is trained in intramuscular administration of medications and, therefore, paramedics may be valuable personnel to assist with mass vaccination.

The Pennsylvania Department of Health (Department) has asked paramedics to assist with mass vaccination for the 2009 H1N1 novel Influenza A virus. Paramedics who are willing to participate in H1N1 vaccination efforts may be deployed by the Department to administer vaccine in Department-run or Department-assisted public mass vaccination clinics, or to administer vaccine in other mass vaccination clinics.

Department responsibilities:

1. The Department will offer the Bureau of EMS Vaccine Administration Course. This course provides training on proper storage and handling of vaccines (including the importance of temperature controls for storage and handling of vaccines and FDA storage and refrigeration standards for vaccine), contraindications to the vaccine, the appropriate dosage of vaccine to be administered, safe and appropriate administration of vaccines, record keeping of vaccine administration, and response to and reporting of adverse events. Paramedics must complete this course to participate in an H1N1 novel Influenza A virus mass vaccination effort.
2. The Department will review documentation provided by regional EMS councils demonstrating that paramedics have completed the Bureau of EMS Vaccine Administration Course, to ensure that all participating paramedics have done so.
3. The Department will require that a physician verify the paramedic's competence to give intramuscular injections at the specified anatomic site and to individuals over the age of one year. The Department will provide a Skill Verification form that specifies the anatomic site or sites, and the skills which must be verified. This form must be completed and signed by a reviewing physician.
4. The Physician General of the Commonwealth, Dr. Stephen Ostroff, will delegate to paramedics the medical service of administering vaccine for the purpose of assisting at mass vaccination sites, and will issue a standing order governing vaccine administration by paramedics at these sites. Delegation will be granted only to a paramedic who has completed the Bureau of EMS Vaccine Administration Course and for whom the Department has received a Skill Verification form from a physician who has verified the paramedic's competence to perform all skills listed in the form.
5. Wherever paramedics are deployed under this program, they will be accompanied by a Department community health nurse.

6. The Department's community health nurse or an appropriate licensed health professional will be provided an approved list of paramedics authorized to administer the vaccine by the Bureau of Emergency Medical Services, and that person will verify the paramedic's credentials before the paramedic will be permitted to administer vaccine.

To ensure that participating paramedics are currently competent to perform vaccine administration, the Department needs the following:

ALS service medical directors

1. To complete a skill verification form through which the physician has verified the paramedic's competence to give intramuscular injections at the specified anatomic site(s) and to individuals over the age of one year. This is to be done through the Skill Verification form provided by the Department.
2. Provide the Skill Verification form to the appropriate regional EMS council.

If the paramedic does not currently have an ALS service medical director, the paramedic may ask the regional EMS council medical director or other physician competent to evaluate a paramedic's skills to administer intramuscular injections to complete the Skill Verification form and provide it to the appropriate regional EMS council or the Department.

Regional EMS Councils

1. To provide to the Department names and paramedic certification numbers for all paramedics who wish to participate in mass vaccination clinics.
2. To provide copies of the Skill Verification forms completed by physicians to the Department and to the Paramedic.
3. To provide to the Department documentation demonstrating that paramedics have completed the Bureau of EMS Vaccine Administration Course (in person or through PA Prepared).

Paramedics administering vaccine as part of a mass vaccination clinic must:

1. Have photo identification and Pennsylvania Paramedic certification card to present at the mass vaccination clinic for verification.
2. Pre-screen each candidate for vaccination, or ensure that a nurse or other licensed medical professional on site pre-screens the candidate, to ensure that the person does not identify a criterion that disqualifies the person for vaccine administration. Pre-screening, at a minimum, includes obtaining a history of vaccinations, allergies, and any adverse reactions from previous vaccinations, and completion in writing of a standardized questionnaire provided by or approved by the Department.
3. Not administer the vaccine to a patient if the paramedic is uncertain whether vaccination of a specific patient is permitted by the Physician General's standing order.

4. Ensure that each candidate for vaccination or their authorized representative has been informed that a paramedic will be administering the vaccine pursuant to the Physician General's delegation of that responsibility to the paramedic, that the person or the person's authorized representative does not object to the performance of the service by the paramedic, and that the person or the person's authorized representative signs a document reflecting their consent to having the paramedic administer the vaccine.
5. Provide to each person to be vaccinated or the person's authorized representative vaccination information and other materials provided by the Department for distribution.
6. Report to the physician or other licensed health professional performing the lead medical function at the mass vaccination site, any observed adverse reaction to the vaccine, and provide to the person who is vaccinated or that person's authorized representative information regarding possible adverse reactions and measures to take if there is an adverse reaction, including reporting the adverse reaction to the program.
7. Complete a post-action report as requested by the Department.

Pennsylvania Paramedic Information Form for Vaccine Administration

Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Home Phone:

Alternate Phone:

Pager:

Email Address:

Certification Number:

Approved by Regional EMS Council

Skill Verification Form

Name _____

Date _____

Certification Number _____

Regional EMS Council _____

| | | Skill Review |
|---|--|---------------------|
| Competency | Clinical Skill, Technique, Procedure, or Knowledge | |
| Medical Protocols | Completed LMS or CE Course 004650 Paramedic vaccine administration course. | |
| | Identifies the need of emergency equipment and use of emergency standing orders | |
| | Understands need to report occupational injuries | |
| | Identifies the 6 "Rights" of Medication Administration (Medication, Route, Time, Client, Dosage, and Documentation) | |
| Vaccine Preparation | Checks vial contents, expiration date, and lot number | |
| | Prepare immunization according to the <i>Public Health Policies, Procedures and Standing Orders Manual</i> (Standing Orders) and the manufacturer's direction/insert | |
| | Maintains aseptic technique throughout | |
| | Selects correct needle size: 1 -1 1/2" for IM; 5/8 for SQ | |
| | Shakes vial and/or reconstitutes with supplied diluents. Rechecks vial for contents and draws up appropriate dose of vaccine immediately prior to administration | |
| | Labels each syringe or places in labeled tray to maintain identification | |
| Vaccine Administration | Rechecks standing orders and verifies with prepared syringes | |
| | Washes hands | |
| | Demonstrates knowledge of appropriate route of each vaccine | |
| | Identifies client | |
| | Positions client; locates anatomic landmarks specific for IM (Paramedics can only give deltoid injections) | |
| | Cleanses injection site with isopropyl alcohol and allow to dry | |
| | Inserts needle quickly at the appropriate angle | |
| | Injects vaccine using steady pressure; withdraws needle at angle of insertion | |
| | Properly disposes of needle and syringe in sharps container | |
| Provides client/parent/guardian with post administration care | | |
| Vaccine Handling/Storage | Demonstrates an understanding of proper storage and transporting of vaccines | |
| | Explains Cold Chain Policy | |
| | Demonstrates basic knowledge of Sensaphone, including verifying temperatures and system status, if applicable | |

Signature of Physician _____

Date _____

Print Name of Physician _____

