

**Ministry of Health and
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**Ministère de la Santé et des
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January 16, 2012

MEMORANDUM TO: Municipal EMS Directors and Managers
First Nation EMS Directors and Managers
CAOs of Upper Tier Municipalities and Designated Delivery Agents

FROM: Malcolm Bates
Director
Emergency Health Services Branch

RE: **Provincial Equipment Standards for
Ontario Ambulance Services – Version 2.0**

I am pleased to announce the approval and release of the *Provincial Equipment Standards for Ontario Ambulance Services*, version 2.0 dated December 2011. These standards are the result of a high level of consultation and collaboration between the EHS Medical Advisory Committee, Ontario Base Hospital Group, the Association of Emergency Medical Services of Ontario (AMEMSO) and the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.

The *Provincial Equipment Standards for Ontario Ambulance Services* describe, where established, the acceptable minimum requirement for medical and accessory equipment required to be carried in land ambulances and emergency response vehicles (ERVs) for use in Ontario. These minimum requirements reflect current prehospital care practices and are consistent with the *Basic Life Support Patient Care Standards* and the recently released *Advanced Life Support Patient Care Standards*.

Key changes in this version of the standards include: 1) the addition of an equipment list specifically for ERVs designated for support or command functions, 2) reductions in the minimum quantities of some types of equipment to facilitate more efficient storage of equipment while ensuring that all ambulances are stocked at a level to be able to provide care for a minimum of two patients and to transport a minimum of one patient, 3) revisions to minimum requirements for equipment to provide services with more flexibility when purchasing equipment while ensuring that equipment is consistent with current patient care standards, and 4) the addition of new minimum standards for equipment to assist services in purchasing mandatory and auxiliary equipment.

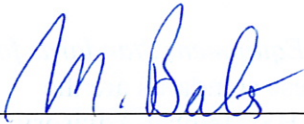
Provincial Equipment Standards for Ontario Ambulance Services - Version 2.0

Page 2

In addition to the standard attached in PDF format, the document will be printed by the Branch and made available to you in sufficient quantities for each ambulance base. You may distribute the document to your staff in electronic format. This document will also be available on website at www.ambulance-transition.com shortly.

Please note that the *Provincial Equipment Standards for Ontario Ambulance Services*, version 2.0 will be considered effective as soon as implemented locally but no later than December 1, 2012. This time is provided to allow ambulance services the opportunity to review their equipment inventory and ensure that the minimum requirements of this standard are met.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Cathy Francis, Manager of Education and Patient Care Standards at (416) 327-7843.



Malcolm Bates

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