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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG
August 31, 2000

COMMITTEES
RECEIVED
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
CHAIRMAN
JUDICIAL
POLICY
2000 SEP 13 AM 8:44
REVIEW COMMISSION

Original: 2003

The Honorable Robert E. Nyce
Independent Regulatory Review Commission
Harristown 2, 14th Floor
333 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Dear Executive Director Nyce:

At the urging of Representative Stern, Representative Orié and a number of my colleagues, I ask that the Pennsylvania Independent Regulatory Review Commission readdress the final form regulations #10-143, regarding Emergency Medical Services. It has been brought to my attention that a number of qualified emergency room physicians would lose their employment if these regulations pass.

The Health and Human Services Committee brought these concerns to the Department of Health and the Independent Regulatory Review Commission during the proposed phase last year. The Department of Health explained that exceptions would be provided, so these physicians would have the opportunity to continue to practice emergency room medicine. However, after reviewing the final form regulations, I do not see where the exceptions lie, and in fact, the regulations seem more ambiguous.

Attached you will find two letters that I have received which explain in more detail the dilemma these physicians feel they would be placed in, if the regulations pass in their current form. On September 7, 2000 at the IRRC hearing regarding these regulations, you will hear from a Board of Certification in Emergency Medicine representative. I ask that you examine his questions and those attached and address them with the Department of Health.

I and my colleagues are concerned that good, dedicated, and qualified physicians who have been practicing emergency room medicine for years will no longer be permitted to practice emergency medicine. To ensure that the quality of health care does not suffer, particularly due to a decline in emergency room physicians, I respectfully ask again that you review these regulations and, if necessary, obtain an explanation from the Department of Health. Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Dennis M. O'Brien
DENNIS M. O'BRIEN, Chairman
Health and Human Services Committee

DMO'B:mp

FROM : EMAF

FAX NO. :

Aug. 30 2000 03:46PM

RECEIVED

2000 SEP -6 AM 8:40

Original: 2003

Mercy Hospital of Pittsburgh
1400 Locust Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15219-5166

August 30, 2000

FOR REVIEW BY THE BOARD FOR
REVIEW COMMISSION

State Representative Dennis O'Brien
9811 Academy Road
Lower Level
Philadelphia, PA 19114-1715

Dear Representative O'Brien,

I am writing to you today, requesting your help with a time sensitive matter.

I am an emergency physician in the Department of Emergency Medicine at the Mercy Hospital of Pittsburgh. I have been on staff for the last 11 years as an attending physician in emergency medicine, treating your constituents as well as teaching residents in Emergency Medicine. I am board-certified in Emergency Medicine by the American Association of Physician Specialists (AAPS) having received the Board of Certification in Emergency Medicine (BCEM).



I am writing in reference to the final form of the Department of Health regulation #10-143, specifically sections 1001.2, 1003.3 and 1003.4.

I have concerns regarding the definition of board certification in Emergency Medicine. Section 1001.2 of the regulation describes board certification in Emergency Medicine to only include those certifications issued by boards recognized by the ABMS or AOA. The proposed regulation does not include the certification that I hold, the Board of Certification in Emergency Medicine (BCEM), recognized by the American Association of Physician Specialists (AAPS). My questions are twofold: 1) Why is the definition of board certification necessary in the regulation? What is the purpose of retaining this limited definition? 2) If so, why has the BCEM not been recognized as a board?

I feel the definition of board certification should be completely eliminated for any requirements in Emergency Medical Services (EMS), or the AAPS should be added to the definition of board certification along with ABEM and AOA.

With respect to sections 1003.3 and 1003.4, these sections concern the requirements for Emergency Medical Command physician. Even though the PA Department of Health has eliminated board certification as a minimum requirement for EMS director, medical command facility director and medical command physicians, and there appears to be no need to differentiate board certified from non-board certified, they still retained the definition of board certified as that recognized by only American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) and the American Osteopathic Association (AOA). Again, what is the purpose of retaining this limited definition?

FROM : EMAP

FAX NO. :

Aug. 30 2000 03:46PM P2

ANNEX A

Title 28. Health and Safety

Chapters 1001 – 1015. Emergency Medical Services

PART VII. EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Chap.		Sec.
1001.	ADMINISTRATION OF THE EMS SYSTEM.....	1001.1
1003.	PERSONNEL.....	1003.1
1005.	LICENSING OF BLS AND ALS <u>GROUND</u> AMBULANCE SERVICES.....	1005.1
1007.	LICENSING OF AIR AMBULANCE SERVICES-ROTORCRAFT ..	1007.1
1009.	[EMS] MEDICAL COMMAND [MEDICAL] FACILITIES	1009.1
1011.	ACCREDITATION OF EMS TRAINING INSTITUTES	1011.1
1013.	SPECIAL EVENT EMS.....	1013.1
1015.	<u>QUICK RESPONSE SERVICE RECOGNITION PROGRAM.....</u>	<u>1015.1</u>

CHAPTER 1001. ADMINISTRATION OF THE EMS SYSTEM

Subch.		Sec.
A.	GENERAL PROVISIONS.....	1001.1
B.	AWARD AND ADMINISTRATION OF [CONTRACTS] <u>FUNDING</u>	1001.21
C.	COLLECTION OF DATA AND INFORMATION.....	1001.41
D.	QUALITY [ASSURANCE] <u>IMPROVEMENT</u> PROGRAM	1001.61
E.	TRAUMA CENTERS.....	1001.81
F.	REQUIREMENTS FOR REGIONAL EMS COUNCILS AND THE COUNCIL.....	1001.101
G.	ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR REGIONAL EMS COUNCILS	1001.121
H.	ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE COUNCIL	1001.141
I.	RESEARCH IN PREHOSPITAL CARE	1001.161

FROM : EMAP

FAX NO. :

Aug. 30 2000 03:46PM P3

[Ambulance trip report number -- A unique number assigned to an ambulance response and recorded on the ambulance trip report form.]

BLS ambulance service -- Basic life support ambulance service -- An entity licensed by the Department to provide BLS services and transportation by ambulance to [seriously ill or injured] patients.

BLS services--Basic life support services -- The basic prehospital or interhospital emergency medical care and management of illness or injury performed by specially trained, [and] certified or licensed personnel.

[BLS training institute -- Basic life support training institute -- An entity accredited by the Department to conduct BLS training courses designed to prepare individuals to render prehospital and interhospital BLS within an organized EMS system.]

Basic rescue practices technician -- An individual who [holds a valid certificate of successful completion of a rescue training program conducted in accordance with the training curriculum approved by the Department] is certified by the Department to possess the training and skills to perform a rescue operation as taught in a basic rescue practices technician program approved by the Department.

Basic vehicle rescue technician -- An individual who [holds a valid certificate of successful completion of a vehicle rescue training program conducted in accordance with the training curriculum approved by the Department] is certified by the Department to possess the training and skills to perform a rescue from a vehicle as taught in a basic vehicle rescue technician program approved by the Department.

Board certification -- Current certification in a medical specialty or subspecialty recognized by either the American Board of Medical Specialties or the American Osteopathic Association.

CPR -- Cardiopulmonary resuscitation -- The combination of artificial respiration and circulation which is started immediately as an emergency procedure when cardiac arrest or respiratory arrest occurs[, by those properly trained and certified to do so].

CPR [Certification] course -- Cardiopulmonary resuscitation [certification] course
- A [certificate evidencing successful completion of a] course of instruction in CPR, meeting the [most current American Heart Association] Emergency Cardiac Care Committee National Conference on CPR and Emergency Cardiac Care standards. The

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Aug. 30 2000 03:47PM P4

CHAPTER 1003. PERSONNEL

Subch.	Sec.
A. ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPERVISORY EMS PERSONNEL.....	1003.1
B. PREHOSPITAL [EMS] <u>AND OTHER</u> PERSONNEL	1003.21
C. [AIR AMBULANCE PERSONNEL.....	1003.41]
(Reserved).	

Subchapter A. ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPERVISORY EMS PERSONNEL

- Sec.
- 1003.1. Commonwealth Emergency Medical Director.
 - 1003.2. Regional EMS medical director.
 - 1003.3. Medical command facility medical director.
 - 1003.4. Medical command physician.
 - 1003.5. ALS service medical director.

§1003.1. Commonwealth Emergency Medical Director.

(a) *Roles and responsibilities.* The Commonwealth Emergency Medical Director is responsible for the following:

- (1) Providing medical advice and recommendations to the Department regarding the EMS system.
- (2) Assisting in the development and implementation of a Statewide EMS quality [assurance] improvement program.

(3) Assisting the Department in revising or modifying the scope of practice of ALS and BLS prehospital personnel

(4) Providing advice and guidance to the Department on investigations and the pursuit of disciplinary actions against prehospital personnel and providers of EMS.

(5) ~~Reviewing and, evaluating AND MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING regional transfer and medical treatment protocols and making recommendations for the Statewide [medical protocols] BLS medical treatment protocols and Statewide criteria for the evaluation, triage, treatment, transport, transfer and referral, including bypass protocols of acutely ill and injured persons to the most appropriate facility.~~

(6) REVIEWING, EVALUATING AND MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE STATEWIDE BLS MEDICAL TREATMENT PROTOCOLS.

(7) REVIEWING, EVALUATING AND MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PROTOCOLS TO GET ACUTELY ILL AND INJURED PATIENTS TO THE MOST APPROPRIATE FACILITY, INCLUDING CRITERIA FOR THE EVALUATION, TRIAGE, TREATMENT, TRANSPORT AND REFERRAL, AS WELL AS BYPASS PROTOCOLS.

~~(6)~~ (8) Evaluating regional EMS quality [assurance] improvement programs.

~~(7)~~ (9) Providing direction and guidance to the regional EMS medical directors for training and quality [assurance activities] improvement monitoring and assistance.

~~(8)~~ (10) Meeting with [directors] representatives and committees of regional EMS councils and the Council as necessary and as directed by the Department to provide guidance and direction.

(11) REVIEWING, EVALUATING AND MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE DEPARTMENT ON CLINICAL RESEARCH PROPOSALS.

~~(9)~~ (12) Providing other services relating to the Department's administration of the act as assigned by the Department.

(b) *Equivalent qualifications.* If the Commonwealth Emergency Medical Director is not a medical command physician, the Commonwealth Emergency Medical Director shall possess the following qualifications:

(1) The minimum qualifications for a medical command physician in §1003.4(b)(1)-(3) and (5) (relating to medical command physician).

FROM : EMAP

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Aug. 30 2000 03:48PM P6

- (2) Experience in the prehospital and emergency department care of the acutely ill and injured patient.
- (3) Knowledge regarding the base station [radio] MEDICAL COMMAND direction of prehospital personnel and the operation of emergency dispatch.
- (4) Knowledge of the capabilities and limitations of ambulances, including air ambulances and prehospital personnel.
- (5) Knowledge of potential medical complications which may arise during transport of a patient by an ambulance service.

(c) Disclosure. The Commonwealth Emergency Medical Director shall disclose to the Department all financial or other interest in providers of EMS and in other matters which present a potential conflict of interest.

§1003.2. Regional EMS medical director.

(a) *Roles and responsibilities*. Each regional EMS council shall have a regional EMS medical director who shall carry out the following duties:

- (1) [Approve] Assist the regional EMS council to approve or reject applications for medical command physicians received from medical command facility medical directors.
- (2) Maintain liaison with the Commonwealth Emergency Medical Director.
- (3) [Establish and review system-wide medical protocols in] Assist the regional EMS council, after consultation with the regional medical advisory committee [and regional EMS council], to establish and revise transfer and medical treatment protocols for the regional EMS system.
- [(4)] Assist the Department in ensuring that personnel in the EMS system meet the certification, recertification, recognition, biennial registration and continuing education requirements established under the act.
- (5) Establish standards for EMS dispatch to assure that the an appropriate response unit is dispatched to the medical emergency scene and that proper patient evaluation is conducted.
- (6) (4) [Establish] Assist the regional EMS council to establish field treatment protocols for determining when a patient will not be transported to a treatment facility and establish procedures for documenting the reasons for a nontransport decision.

[(7)] (5) [Establish] Assist the regional EMS council to establish field protocols to govern situations in which a patient may be transported without consent, in accordance with Pennsylvania law. The protocols shall cover appropriate documentation and review procedures.

[(8)] (6) [Establish] Assist the regional EMS council to establish criteria for level of care and type of transportation to be provided in various medical emergencies, such as ALS versus BLS, and ground versus air [specialty unit transportation] ambulance, and distribute approved criteria to PSAPs.

[(9)] Establish operation standards for medical command facilities.

[(10)] (7) Conduct quality [assurance] improvement audits of the regional EMS system including reviewing the quality [assurance] improvement activities conducted by the ALS service medical directors within the region.

[(11)] (8) Serve on the State EMS Quality [Assurance] Improvement Committee.

[(12)] (9) Serve as chairperson of the regional EMS council medical advisory committee.

[(13)] (10) Facilitate [and assure] continuity of patient care during inter-regional transport.

[(14)] (11) Recommend to the Department suspension, [or] revocation or restriction of prehospital personnel certifications and recognitions.

[(15)] (12) Conduct hearings in accordance with §1003.28 (relating to medical command authorization) upon appeal of an individual whose medical command authorization is denied or restricted by the ALS service medical director and issue written decisions.

[(16)] (13) Review regional plans, procedures and processes for compliance with State standards of emergency medical care.

[(17)] Delegate portions of his authority to other qualified physicians.

(18) Meet with the ALS service medical directors within the region as necessary to disseminate information regarding State statutes, regulations, policies and direction.]

(b) *Minimum qualifications.*

(4) A regional EMS council medical director shall have the following qualifications:

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(i) (1) [A valid license to practice medicine in this Commonwealth as a doctor of medicine or doctor of osteopathy.] Licensure as a physician.

(ii) (2) Experience in prehospital and emergency department care of the acutely ill or injured patient.

(iii) (3) Experience in ~~base station~~ [radio] MEDICAL COMMAND direction of prehospital ~~emergency units~~ PERSONNEL.

(iv) (4) Experience in emergency department management of the acutely ill or injured patient.

(v) (5) ~~Board certification in emergency medicine.~~ HAVE COMPLETED 3 YEARS IN A RESIDENCY PROGRAM IN EMERGENCY MEDICINE OR HAVE SERVED AS A MEDICAL COMMAND PHYSICIAN IN THIS COMMONWEALTH PRIOR TO (EFFECTIVE DATE OF THESE AMENDING REGULATIONS).

(vi) (6) Experience in the training of basic and advanced prehospital personnel.

(vii) (7) Experience in the medical audit, review and critique of BLS and ALS prehospital personnel.

(2) ~~The [Secretary] Department may waive the board certification requirement upon written request by the regional EMS council.~~

(c) [Medical Advisory Committee. Each regional EMS council shall have a medical advisory committee to provide the council medical director with advice on issues relevant to the areawide EMS system.] Disclosure. A regional EMS medical director shall disclose to a regional EMS council all financial or other interest in providers of EMS and in other matters which present a potential conflict of interest.

§1003.3. Medical command facility medical director.

(a) *Roles and responsibilities.* A medical command facility shall have a medical command facility medical director. A medical command facility medical director is responsible for the following:

- (1) Medical command.
- (2) Quality [assurance] improvement.
- (3) Liaison with regional EMS council medical director.
- (4) Participation in prehospital training activities.

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Aug. 30 2000 03:49PM P9

(5) Clinical and continuing education training of prehospital [emergency care] personnel.

(6) Recommendations to the regional EMS medical director regarding medical command physician applications from [his institution] the medical command facility.

(b) *Minimum qualifications.*

(4) **A TO QUALIFY AND CONTINUE TO FUNCTION AS A medical command facility medical director, AN INDIVIDUAL shall have the following qualifications:**

(i) (1) **Be CURRENTLY SERVING AS a medical command physician.**

(ii) (2) ~~Board certification in emergency medicine or, [in lieu of this, current ACLS and ATLS certification] have successfully completed the ACLS course within the preceding 2 years and the ATLS course, and either an APLS or PALS course, or other programs determined by the Department to meet or exceed the standards of those programs, along with board certification in surgery, internal medicine, family medicine, pediatrics or anesthesiology.~~ **SATISFY ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:**

(I) **HAVE COMPLETED 3 YEARS IN A RESIDENCY PROGRAM IN EMERGENCY MEDICINE.**

(II) **HAVE SERVED AS A MEDICAL COMMAND PHYSICIAN IN THIS COMMONWEALTH PRIOR TO (EFFECTIVE DATE OF THESE AMENDING REGULATIONS).**

(III) **HAVE SECURED BOARD CERTIFICATION IN SURGERY, INTERNAL MEDICINE, FAMILY MEDICINE, PEDIATRICS OR ANESTHESIOLOGY. IF THE PHYSICIAN HAS BOARD CERTIFICATION IN ONE OF THESE MEDICAL SPECIALTIES. THE PHYSICIAN SHALL ALSO HAVE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED OR TAUGHT THE ACLS COURSE WITHIN THE PRECEDING 2 YEARS AND HAVE COMPLETED, AT LEAST ONCE, THE ATLS COURSE, AND EITHER AN APLS OR PALS COURSE, OR OTHER PROGRAMS DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT TO MEET OR EXCEED THE STANDARDS OF THESE PROGRAMS.**

(iii) (3) **Experience in prehospital and emergency department care of the acutely ill or injured patient.**

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Aug. 30 2000 03:50PM P10

~~(iv)~~ (4) Experience in ~~base-station~~ [radio] PROVIDING MEDICAL COMMAND direction of TO prehospital ~~emergency units~~ PERSONNEL.

~~(v)~~ (5) Experience in the training of [basic] BLS and [advanced prehospital emergency health] ALS prehospital personnel.

~~(vi)~~ (6) Experience in the medical audit, review and critique of BLS and ALS prehospital personnel.

~~(g)~~ The [Secretary] ~~Department~~ may waive the board certification requirement upon written request by the regional EMS council.

§1003.4. Medical command physician.

(a) *Roles and responsibilities.* A medical command physician shall [carry out the following duties:

(1) Provide] provide medical command to prehospital [emergency health] personnel.

(2) Assist with the duties of medical control.] This includes providing online medical command to prehospital personnel whenever they seek direction.

(b) *Minimum qualifications.* A TO QUALIFY AND CONTINUE TO FUNCTION AS A medical command physician, AN INDIVIDUAL shall:

(1) [Hold a valid license to practice in this Commonwealth as a Doctor of Medicine or Doctor of Osteopathy.] Be a physician.

(2) ~~Be board certified in emergency medicine or,~~ in lieu of this, be certified in ATLS and] ~~have successfully completed the ACLS course within the preceding 2 years and the ATLS course, and either an APLS or PALS course, or other programs determined by the Department to meet or exceed the standards of those programs.~~ SATISFY ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

(I) HAVE COMPLETED 3 YEARS IN A RESIDENCY PROGRAM IN EMERGENCY MEDICINE.

(II) HAVE SERVED AS A MEDICAL COMMAND PHYSICIAN IN THIS COMMONWEALTH PRIOR TO (EFFECTIVE-DATE OF THESE AMENDING REGULATIONS).

(III) HAVE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED OR TAUGHT THE ACLS COURSE WITHIN THE PRECEDING 2 YEARS AND HAVE COMPLETED, AT

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LEAST ONCE, THE ATLS COURSE, AND EITHER AN APLS OR PALS COURSE, OR OTHER PROGRAMS DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT TO MEET OR EXCEED THE STANDARDS OF THESE PROGRAMS.

(3) [Complete] Have completed the [American Medical Association's (AMA's) Continuing Medical Education Credits] continuing medical education credits required for membership in the American Medical Association, or its equivalent, or be serving a [postgraduate]~~post~~ GRADUATE year III in an ~~approved~~ A residency program in emergency medicine or a [postgraduate] ~~post graduate~~ year II in an ~~approved~~ A residency program in emergency medicine, with concurrent [on-line] online supervision by an approved medical command physician.

(4) Be a full-time emergency physician or practice emergency medicine for at least half-time of a full-time medical practice.

(5) Possess a valid Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) number.

(6) [Complete a base station medical command course within 2 years of the adoption of a course by the Department]. Have completed the Medical Command Base Station Course.

[(7) Be approved by the regional EMS medical director.]

(c) Approval of medical command physician.

(1) A physician may function as a medical command physician if approved to do so by a regional EMS council.

(2) A regional EMS council shall approve a physician as a medical command physician if the physician demonstrates that the physician will function under the auspices of a medical command facility and establishes one of the following:

(i) That the physician satisfies the qualifications for a medical command physician in subsection (b).

(ii) That the physician has received certification as a medical command physician from the Department upon successfully completing the voluntary medical command physician certification program administered by the Department.

(3) A regional EMS council shall conclude that the physician will be operating under the auspices of a medical command facility if the physician establishes THAT THE PHYSICIAN HAS AN ARRANGEMENT WITH THE MEDICAL COMMAND FACILITY TO PROVIDE MEDICAL COMMAND ON ITS BEHALF

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Aug. 30 2000 03:51PM P12

WHILE ON DUTY FOR THE MEDICAL COMMAND FACILITY, UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE MEDICAL COMMAND FACILITY MEDICAL DIRECTOR AND PURSUANT TO THE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES OF THE MEDICAL COMMAND FACILITY, AND FURTHER ESTABLISHES one of the following:

(i) That the facility meets the requirements for a medical command facility prescribed in §1009.1 (relating to operational criteria).

(ii) That the facility has received recognition as a medical command facility from the Department pursuant to §1009.2 (relating to recognition process).

(d) Notice requirements FOR MEDICAL COMMAND FACILITY AND REGIONAL EMS COUNCIL.

(1) A medical command facility shall give notice to each regional EMS council having responsibility for an EMS region in which the medical command facility anticipates medical command physicians functioning under its auspices will be providing medical command, and shall explain the circumstances under which medical command will be given in that region.

(2) A regional EMS council that has approved a physician as a medical command physician shall give notice of the approval to the Department.

(e) Transfer and medical treatment protocols. A medical command physician shall provide medical command to prehospital personnel in ground ambulances and QRSs consistent with the transfer and medical treatment protocols which are in effect in either the region in which treatment originates or the region in which the prehospital personnel begin receiving online medical command from the medical command physician.

§1003.5. ALS service medical director.

(a) *Roles and responsibilities.* An ALS service medical director is responsible for the following:

(1) Providing medical guidance and advice to the ALS ambulance service[,], including:

(i) Reviewing the Statewide BLS medical treatment protocols and the regional transfer and medical treatment protocols, and ensuring that the ALS ambulance service's prehospital personnel are familiar with them, and amendments and revisions thereto.

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Aug. 30 2000 03:51PM P13

(ii) Providing guidance to the ALS ambulance SERVICE with respect to the ordering, stocking and replacement of drugs, and compliance with laws and regulations impacting upon the ALS ambulance service's acquisition, storage and use of those drugs.

(iii) Participating in the regional and Statewide quality improvement plans, including continuous quality improvement reviews of patient care and its interaction with the regional EMS system.

(iv) Recommending to the relevant regional EMS council, when appropriate, specific transfer and medical treatment protocols for inclusion in the regional transfer and medical treatment protocols.

(2) Granting [or], denying, or restricting medical command authorization to members of the ALS ambulance service's prehospital personnel who require this authorization, and participating in appeals from decisions to deny or restrict medical command authorization in accordance with [§1003.29] §1003.28 (relating to medical command authorization).

(3) Performing medical audits of patient care provided by the ALS ambulance service's prehospital personnel.

(b) *Equivalent qualifications.* If the ALS service medical director is not a medical command physician, the ALS service medical director shall:

(1) Possess the minimum qualifications for a medical command physician in §1003.4(b)(1)-(5) (relating to medical command physician).

(2) Have experience in the base station [radio] MEDICAL COMMAND direction of prehospital personnel [and the operation of emergency dispatch].

(3) Have knowledge of the capabilities and limitations of ambulances, including air ambulances, and prehospital personnel.

(4) Have knowledge of potential medical complications which may arise during transport of the patient by an ambulance service.

(5) Successfully complete [Parts A and B of] the Medical Command Base Station Course [adopted by the Department].