Position Statement - Vaccine Administration

Purpose:

This position statement is to clarify Alberta College of Paramedics expectations of EMT-P practitioners on the administration of vaccines.

Notation:

This position statement applies only to the EMT-P practitioner.

AOCP:

The following are the AOCPs related to this position statement:

- A-3 Knowledge of Pathophysiology
- A-4 Knowledge of Pharmacology
- B-8 Apply Infection Control Precautions
- G-1 Medication Administration
- G-4 Administration via Intramuscular Route
- G-6 Administration via Subcutaneous Route
- H-7 Determine Care for Endocrine / Immune Alterations

Rationale:

Education

The current College approved EMT-P programs include in their curricula pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics involving the immune system and specific pharmacology related to this system.

Legislation

- The Government Organizations Act defines vaccine administration as a restricted activity.
- The Pharmacy and Drug Act govern and identify restricted drugs in schedules.
- The Scheduled Drugs Regulation identifies vaccines as Schedule 1 drugs. It identifies the specific vaccines as: diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, haemophilus B, measles, meningitis, mumps, rubella, and pediatric hepatitis B.
- The Health Disciplines Act (HDA) and EMT Regulation (11-2) enables the EMT-P to provide topical, oral, sublingual, rectal, subcutaneous, intramuscular, intravenous, endotracheal or nebulized drug administration.

This position statement is effective October 15, 2013 and will be evaluated at disclosure of the Paramedic Practice Manager and no less than one year from effective date.
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- A registered practitioner with the College is governed by the HDA and EMT Regulation which outline the requirement for medical direction and audit, which would oversee the provision of vaccination.
- External or alternate vaccine providers outside of public-health delivered programs provide immunizations using provincially funded vaccines. An EMT-P practitioner is an example of a registered member under the Health Disciplines Act, and considered to be a community provider of this vaccine if acting in accordance with the Alberta Influenza Immunization Program requirements.

College Position:

Given the above evidence, the College determines that an EMT-P practitioner under medical control and ongoing audit can administer vaccines as identified by Schedule 1 of the Scheduled Drugs Regulation.

The EMT-P practitioner can administer the influenza immunization when acting in accordance with the community provider influenza vaccine agreement and under medical control and ongoing audit.

If you have any questions please contact the Paramedic Practice Manager at the Alberta College of Paramedics at practice@albertacollegeofparamedics.org.

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