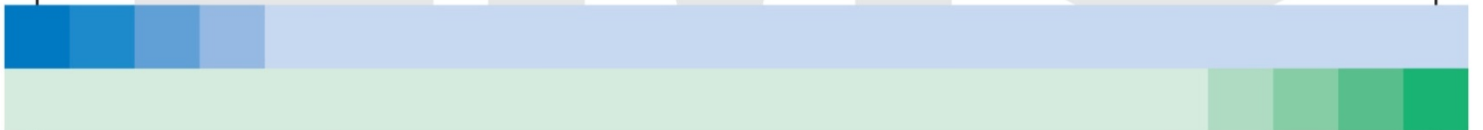


EMS

Emergency Medical Services



Objective

To ensure responders engaged in medical patient care have received the necessary training and experience through education, skills practice, continuing competency assessment and field experience. This document outlines the training standards for agencies participating in the Alberta Medical First Response (MFR) Program.

Level of Service

The municipality and MFR agency, in consultation with the MFR Program define the agency's level of service based on their desired activity, resources and equipment available to those responders. Levels of service are defined as follows:

1. Standard First Aid (SFA) with Health Care Provider Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (HCP CPR) or Level C CPR and Automated External Defibrillation (AED)
2. First Medical Responder (FMR)
 - a. Includes Advanced First Aid or equivalent (details below)
3. Emergency Medical Responder (EMR)
4. Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)
5. Paramedic (EMT-P)

As the level of service increases, so does the commitment, training time, funding and equipment required to maintain it. Municipalities and their MFR agencies are responsible for ensuring all requirements are met for their level of service.

Note: Up-training of responders to a level above Standard First Aid is not required by the MFR Program.

Standard First Aid Training Standards

- Current certification in a Standard First Aid course approved by Alberta Occupational Health & Safety ([list updated quarterly and available online](#))
- Current certification in Healthcare Provider level CPR/AED. Level C CPR is also acceptable but may not support use of certain airway equipment, contact the MFR Program for more information.
- Review and understanding of the MFR SFA Medical Control Protocols (MCPs), reviewing these at least once every three years

Optional enhanced skills for SFA responders

The MFR Program has created opportunities for optional skill development. SFA responders interested in developing their skills may choose to complete enhanced skills training in order to safely perform additional clinical skills. Enhanced skills modules must be reviewed at least once every three years. The optional enhanced skills include:

1. Auscultation of the chest and obtaining a blood pressure measurement using a stethoscope
2. Obtaining a Blood Glucose Level (BGL) using a blood glucometer device
3. Obtaining an oxygen saturation measurement using a pulse oximeter
4. Performing basic patient extrication (lifting & moving if needed)
5. Using a semi-rigid neck (cervical) collar to initiate spinal motion restriction
6. Using a Bag-Valve-Mask (BVM) device to deliver ventilations
7. Insertion of an Oral-Pharyngeal Airway (OPA) to maintain an open airway
8. Administration of oxygen
9. Use of a manual suction device to maintain a clear airway

First Medical Responder Training Standards

- Current certification in an Advanced First Aid course approved by Alberta Occupational Health & Safety, or;
- Successful completion of an EMR program where registration with the Alberta College of Paramedics is not obtained or has expired, or;
- Other equivalency as approved by the MFR Program
 - o Minimum guidelines for equivalency include 80+ hours duration of medical training and inclusion of the enhanced skills content outlined above
 - o Application for equivalency must be submitted for approval by contacting the MFR Program at MFR@albertahealthservices.ca
- Current certification in Healthcare Provider level CPR/AED
- Review and understanding of the MFR FMR MCPs, reviewing these at least once every three years
- Participate in review of enhanced skill modules at least once every three years

Note: FMR is defined solely by the MFR Program and Medical Directors; it does not represent a certification or educational program that is delivered by Alberta Health Services.

Emergency Medical Responder Training Standards

- Current registration with the [Alberta College of Paramedics](http://www.albertacollegeofparamedics.ca)
- Current certification in Healthcare Provider level CPR/AED
- Review and understanding of the MFR EMR MCPs, reviewing these at least once every three years

Emergency Medical Technician Training Standards

- Current registration with the Alberta College of Paramedics
- Current certification in Healthcare Provider level CPR/AED

- Clinical exposure and experience with regular in-house training as required by the MFR agency and MFR Medical Director
- Review and understanding of the MFR EMT MCPs, reviewing these at least once every three years

Paramedic (EMT-P) Training Standards

- Current registration with the Alberta College of Paramedics
- Clinical exposure and experience with regular in-house training as required by the MFR agency and MFR Medical Director
- Knowledge and skills training on the AHS EMS MCPs – paramedic practitioners in the MFR role are required to undertake the same MCP certification and maintenance process as AHS EMS

Responders that exceed their agency's level of service

Practitioners whose level of training exceeds the level of service identified by their agency will be considered as having satisfied the MFR training requirements for the lower level of care once they have reviewed the applicable MCPs.

For example; an AHS EMS paramedic volunteering with an SFA-level fire department will not be required to undergo any additional MFR training other than a review of the SFA-level MCPs, as long as the paramedic remains registered. The paramedic will provide care at the base level of service (SFA as the example above) as defined by the MFR agency and authorizing administration.

Additional training & skill development

All responders are encouraged to continuously develop their skills and knowledge base. When a learning opportunity is identified through the MFR Quality Assurance process, continuing competency training may be recommended. This training will be delivered through the MFR agency or the MFR Program depending on the resources available.

Common Definitions

MFR Medical First Response MFRs Medical First Responders MCPs Medical Control Protocols Agency Organization providing MFR Level of Service Level of emergency medical care SFA Standard First Aid EMR Emergency Medical Responder EMT Emergency Medical Technician EMT-P Paramedic BLS Basic Life Support (EMT)	ALS Advanced Life Support (Paramedic) ACP Alberta College of Paramedics AOCP Alberta Occupational Competency Profile HPA Health Professions Act Medical Director Physician that oversees the MFR scope of practice CPR Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation AED Automated External Defibrillator ACLS Advanced Cardiac Life Support MGA Municipal Government Act
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Date of Review	Change		Rationale
	Revised	Deleted / Archived	
June 09, 2015	Update content to current program standards and references		Update to reflect current language and references
August 15, 2016	Level C CPR included as acceptable		Industry standard per ACP