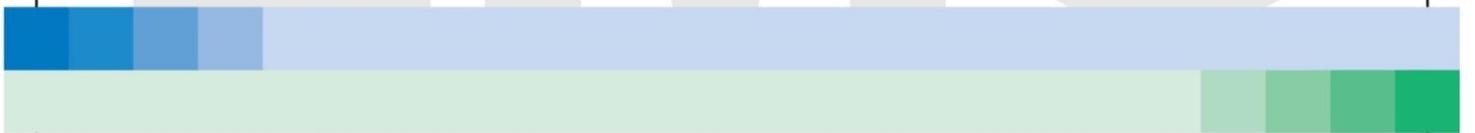


EMS

Emergency Medical Services



Objective

This document outlines the training standards for agencies participating in the Alberta Medical First Response (MFR) Program. Responders that provide patient care should receive the necessary training and experience through education, skills practice, continuing competency assessment and field experience. Each agency must determine their own internal best practices in order to meet this objective in good faith.

Level of Service

The municipality and MFR agency, in consultation with the MFR Program, defines 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 Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation 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. Primary Care Paramedic (PCP)
5. Advanced Care Paramedic (ACP)

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 CPR/AED (annual certification recommended) that includes adult, child and infant guidelines
- Review and understanding of the MFR Medical Control Protocols (MCPs), reviewing these at least once every three years

Optional enhanced skills for SFA responders

The MFR Program encourages opportunities for optional skill development. SFA responders may complete enhanced skills training to safely perform additional clinical skills. The requirements for enhanced skills training are determined by the MFR Agency and should be reviewed by their responders at least once every three years.

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
10. Administration of Naloxone (Narcan) by Intramuscular (IM) injection or Intranasal (IN) spray

First Medical Responder Training Standards

- Current certification in an Advanced First Aid course approved by Alberta Occupational Health & Safety, 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 Information about equivalency can be obtained by contacting the MFR Program at MFR@ahs.ca
- Current certification in CPR/AED (annual certification recommended) that includes adult, child and infant guidelines
- Review and understanding of the MFR MCPs, reviewing these at least once every three years
- Participate in the 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 practice permit with the Alberta College of Paramedics
- Current certification in CPR/AED (annual certification recommended) that includes adult, child and infant guidelines
- Review and understanding of the MFR MCPs, reviewing these at least once every three years

Primary Care Paramedic Training Standards

- Current practice permit with the Alberta College of Paramedics
- Current certification in CPR/AED (annual certification recommended) that includes adult, child and infant guidelines
- 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 MCPs, reviewing these at least once every three years

Advanced Care Paramedic Training Standards

- Current practice permit 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; ACP practitioners in the MFR role are required to undertake the same MCP certification and maintenance process as AHS EMS. The MFR program does not administer the MCP certification process for ACPs.

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 MFR MCPs, as long as the paramedic remains registered with the College of Paramedics. 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 MCP Medical Control Protocols Agency Organization providing MFR SFA Standard First Aid EMR Emergency Medical Responder PCP Primary Care Paramedic ACP Advanced Care Paramedic CPR Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation AED Automated External Defibrillator	AOCP Alberta Occupational Competency Profile HPA Health Professions Act Medical Director Physician that oversees the MFR scope of practice 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
September 16, 2021	General update, revise regulated titles and CPR certifications		Update to reflect current language and references
November 9, 2022	General update		Updated to reflect changes to training titles and best practices.