



## Aspirin Administration by Emergency Medical Technicians Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

***Why were the NYS BLS protocols changed to include the administration of aspirin by EMT?***

The American Heart Association 2005 Guidelines issued the recommendation that prehospital providers should administer aspirin to those patients who may be suffering from an acute coronary syndrome.

Along with their approval of new CPR and AED algorithms, the New York State Emergency Medical Advisory Committee (SEMAC) and the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) approved Emergency Medical Technician – Basics (EMT-B) to administer aspirin to those patients who are classified as “cardiac related” patients.

***What part of the protocols were changed?***

The NYSDOH BLS Protocols, in particular the “***Adult Cardiac Related Problem***” protocol, **M-5**, were updated.

The new protocols were distributed to all EMS agencies and are available on the NYSDOH Bureau of EMS (BEMS) website, [www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/ems/protocolsnew.htm](http://www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/ems/protocolsnew.htm) , and the Westchester Regional EMS website, [www.wremasco.org](http://www.wremasco.org) .

***When does the protocol go into effect?***

The new “***Adult Cardiac Related Problem***” protocol, **M-5**, goes into effect **IMMEDIATELY** after the notification from the NYSDOH was distributed – however an agency must complete the training as prescribed by the NYSDOH before putting aspirin on their vehicles.

***What changes have been made in the EMT training to address these changes?***

The NYSDOH EMT-B Original Curriculum has been updated to reflect the changes, specifically module **4-3**, “***Cardiac Emergencies***,” has been revised.

The EMT-B Original Curriculum with the updated material added is available on the NYSDOH BMS web site at: [www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/ems/basic.htm](http://www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/ems/basic.htm) .

***When will the new material be taught in EMT basic and refresher programs?***

Course Sponsorships have been advised that training on this new material must begin in all original certification courses as well as all recertification courses as soon as they received the update packet issued in January 2007.

It is anticipated that the new material will be included in the state certification exams starting in March 2007.



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***What material must be included in the update training?***

The NYSDOH is requiring that the updated **4-3** module, “**Cardiac Emergencies,**” of the EMT-B Original Curriculum be presented in its entirety. This will include an overall review of unchanged objectives / content and a thorough instruction of the new objectives / content related to the administration of aspirin.

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***Is testing required?***

**Yes** – both a written and practical exam must be administered regarding new objectives / content related to the administration of aspirin.

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***Who may teach the new material?***

The NYSDOH is stressing the importance of the material by requesting that all EMS agencies use NYS certified instructors (CIC, CLI) to in-service their providers.

If, however, an agency is truly unable to have the update completed by a CIC or CLI, the Service Training Officer may conduct the training with specific approval from the Service Medical Director.

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***What records must be retained by the agency to document the completion of the update?***

The NYSDOH is requiring that all EMS agencies keep on file records to document their compliance with the update process that has been outlined.

This documentation must include, but is not limited to:

- Sign-in and sign-out attendance records.
- Copies of all educational materials used for the purpose of this training.(i.e. presentation material, handouts, etc)
- Copies of all written evaluation tools used for each provider who completed the training. ***Written evaluation tools must be approved by the Service Medical Director before they are used.***
- Copies of all practical evaluation tools used for each provider who completed the training. The practical skill evaluation tool issued by the NYSDOH is to be used.
- Documentation of any remediation as needed

These records must be kept at the agency so that they may be made available to the NYSDOH on demand for inspection.

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***Do all my certified personnel need to complete update training?***

**Yes** - The NYS BLS Protocols effect both EMTs and AEMTs, therefore **ALL** certified providers EMT and above must be in-serviced.

This protocol revision does not apply to Certified First Responders (CFR).



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***When can my agency put aspirin into service on my response vehicles?***

As soon as all certified providers have completed the update training and testing, and your Service Medical Director is satisfied that the state requirements have been fulfilled, aspirin may be placed into service on your response vehicles.

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***What type of aspirin should my agency stock?***

Nonenteric (non-coated) low dose aspirin (i.e. baby aspirin), supplied in 81 mg tablets.

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***How should my agency store aspirin on its vehicles?***

Aspirin should be kept with any other BLS administered medications and secured to the extent that a patient or child can not gain access to it to prevent accidental or intentional overdose.

Storage of any medication being used in a BLS setting should be done in a manner consistent with ***NYS Policy Statement 00-15: Storage and safe guarding of medications administered by EMT-Bs***, [www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/ems/pdf/00-15.pdf](http://www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/ems/pdf/00-15.pdf) .

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***Does my agency need a policy to address the inclusion of aspirin?***

**Yes** - it is recommended that all EMS services carrying aspirin develop a policy before placing it into use that includes, but may not be limited to the following items:

- inventory control / monitoring (expiration dates)
  - storage
  - replacement
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***Is there a deadline by which the updates must be completed and the aspirin put into service?***

**Yes** – The deadline for completion of the update and putting the aspirin into service is **July 1, 2007**.

EMS agencies that fail to complete the process outlined by the NYSDOH by that time will be operating outside of NYSDOH protocol and practice for certified ambulance services.

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