

## The History of the Path to Becoming a Medical Director of an Ohio EMS Agency

The original rules for the qualifications of a medical director of an Ohio EMS agency became effective on August 25, 2002. At that time, the qualifications to serve a medical director of an EMS agency were essentially to hold a valid Ohio medical license, to provide written protocols, and to provide a quality assurance program.

On February 1, 2009, the Ohio EMS Board amended the rules to require a medical director of an Ohio EMS agency to be either board certified by the American Board of Emergency Medicine (ABEM) or the American Osteopathic Board of Emergency Medicine (AOBEM) or board eligible by the completion of an emergency medicine residency program that is recognized by the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) or the American Osteopathic Association (AOA). In addition, physicians who were board certified by the American Board of Pediatrics or the American Osteopathic Board of Pediatrics and had successfully completed an accredited pediatric EMS fellowship also were deemed as meeting the board certification/board eligibility requirement to qualify as a medical director of an Ohio EMS agency. Physicians who were board certified in any medical specialty recognized by the ABMS or the AOA and had successfully completed an EMS fellowship were also deemed as meeting this requirement.

At this time, a “grandfather pathway” was created due to the significant number of existing EMS medical directors in Ohio who had not completed an emergency medicine residency or who were not board certified/eligible in emergency medicine. For this subset of medical directors, they could remain qualified to serve as the medical director of an Ohio EMS agency by completion of the medical director’s course offered by the National Association of EMS Physicians (NAEMSP) or by the Ohio chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians (Ohio ACEP).

The Board waiver process was created solely for a subset of physicians who are new medical director candidates. From February 1, 2009 until February 6, 2012, this subset encompassed physicians who were not actively providing medical direction to an EMS agency prior to February 1, 2009, were not board certified or board eligible in emergency medicine, and had not completed a pediatric EMS fellowship. In order to be eligible for a waiver, the physician candidate must first be compliant with Ohio Administrative Code 4765-3-05 (A) with the exception of OAC 4765-3-05(A)(6) which cites the board certification language. The physician candidate must also complete the medical director’s course offered by the NAEMSP or Ohio ACEP. The request for a waiver and any and all requested credentials from the physician candidate is reviewed by the State Medical Director and the Regional Physician Advisory Board (RPAB) chairpersons. Following this review, a recommendation is made to the EMFTS Board (formerly the EMS Board), and the EMFTS Board ultimately decided if a waiver to serve as the medical director of an EMS agency should be approved or not.

On September 10, 2010, ABMS formally recognized EMS as a practice of medicine which launched the creation of an EMS subspecialty board certification. On February 6, 2012, the

EMS Board amended the rules to add subspecialty board certification in EMS from the ABEM as an additional option for fully meeting the qualifications to serve a medical director of an Ohio EMS agency. Physicians who have completed an accredited EMS fellowship program are eligible to take the EMS subspecialty board examination. It is important to note that ABEM has created two additional pathways of eligibility. As EMS fellowship programs are currently in the process of acquiring accreditation, physician who have completed EMS fellowship programs in the past may take this examination. The second pathway is the practice pathway which is a “grandfather pathway” for existing EMS medical director to achieve subspecialty board certification in EMS. The grandfather pathway does not require board certification in emergency medicine and, as such, there are a small number of non-emergency physicians who are board certified in EMS at this time.



**Board Certified in EM/EMS**

- Fulfill OAC 4765-3-05(A) by the following:
- Compliance with all of the parameters cited in OAC 4765-3-05(A)
- No additional actions required



**Existing prior to 2/1/2009**

- Fulfill OAC 4765-3-05(B) by the following:
- Compliance with OAC 4765-3-05(A) except for (A)(6)
- Completion of NAEMSP or Ohio ACEP medical directors course



**New on or after 2/1/2009**

- Fulfill OAC 4765-3-05(C) by the following:
- Compliance with OAC 4765-3-05(A) except for (A)(6)
- Completion of NAEMSP or Ohio ACEP medical directors course
- Credential review by the RPAB Chairs and State Medical Director
- Obtain a waiver from the EMFTS Board