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OPERATIONAL BULLETIN

Bulletin #	Title		Date Issued
2026-03-12-01	Creation of the Protocol Review Workgroup		March 12, 2026
Superseded	Released By:	Source:	Pages
N/A	Maine EMS	N/A	4
<p>Overview: Maine EMS is modernizing its protocol update process by establishing a dedicated Protocol Review Workgroup to ensure clinical standards remain agile and evidence based. This new structured approach utilizes a 12-member team to perform rigorous evidence reviews based on four key pillars: motivation, purpose, evidence, and impact. Starting in April 2026, the MDPB will follow a systematic timeline for section-specific reviews, culminating in a statewide "Go Live" date of December 1, 2027. Stakeholders are encouraged to maintain transparency and clinical excellence by submitting suggestions via the Protocol Suggestion Form and attending open remote meetings.</p>			

Background and Purpose

The Maine EMS protocol update process has become increasingly resource-intensive over the past 15 years. As the complexity and nuance of prehospital care grow, the Medical Direction and Practices Board (MDPB) has identified a need to modernize how we develop and maintain clinical standards. Currently, limited meeting time and competing priorities can lead to difficulties in maintaining the rigorous timelines required for a statewide release.

To address these challenges, the MDPB is establishing a dedicated Protocol Review Workgroup. This group is tasked with streamlining the review process to ensure the protocols remain agile, evidence-based, and focused on helping patients by supporting our clinicians.

The Workgroup Composition

This small, motivated group consists of seven MDPB members and five staff liaisons, including:

- State and Associate State Medical Directors.
- MDPB Pediatric Representative and Clinical Pharmacist.
- Two Regional Medical Directors.
- ALS and BLS Members.
- Liaisons for Rules, Education, Data, and Regional Management.

● **Excellence** ● **Support** ● **Collaboration** ● **Integrity** ●

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The Protocol Review Process

While the MDPB remains the final legislative authority for protocol adoption, the Workgroup will meet off-cycle to conduct the "heavy lifting" of evidence review and document preparation. All protocol suggestions will be filtered through a standardized Process Map that evaluates four key pillars:

1. Motivation: Is the change patient-centric or focused on supporting clinicians?
2. Purpose: Has a system need or clinical gap been clearly demonstrated?
3. Evidence: What does a structured interpretation of medical literature show regarding the therapy or process?
4. Impact: What is the clinical benefit versus the system "cost" (fiscal, educational, and operational)?

Stakeholder Input

Transparency is a core tenet of this new process. The MDPB continues to encourage stakeholders to participate by using the Protocol Suggestion Form to submit ideas for review. Workgroup meetings will remain open, and all consensus recommendations will be presented to the full MDPB for final adjudication.

Protocol Section	Protocol Suggestion Due Date
Blue	6/2/2026
Red	7/7/2026
Gold	8/4/2026
Green	9/1/2026
Yellow	10/6/2026
Pink	11/3/2026
Lavender	12/1/2026
Orange	1/5/2027
Ecchymosis	2/2/2027

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Public Meetings and Timeline

The workgroup will be reviewing the protocols in a systematic fashion beginning in April 2026 and culminating in December of 2027. The group will host a series of meetings to review specific sections from July of 2026 through March of 2027 but will also consider protocol suggestions from various sections prior to that time and as needed throughout the process.

Meetings will be held remotely and will be open to the public. Stakeholders are welcome to attend via the following meeting link: <https://mainestate.zoom.us/j/81502424488>

Meeting	Section	Goal
4/7/2026		1st Pass: Group Review inclusive of any stakeholder input
5/5/2026		
6/2/2026		
7/7/2026*	Blue	2nd Pass: Focused Review on Each Section to Include Additional Stakeholder and MDPB Input
8/4/2026*	Red	
9/1/2026*	Gold	
10/6/2026*	Green	
11/3/2026*	Yellow	
12/1/2026*	Pink	
1/5/2027*	Lavender	
2/2/2027*	Orange	
3/2/2027*	Ecchymosis	
4/6/2027*		
5/4/2027*		
6/1/2027*		
7/6/2026*		Clean Up/Edit/Build/Finalize Education
8/3/2027*		
9/7/2027*		Implementation/Education/Webinars

10/5/2027*		
11/2/2027*		
12/1/2027		Go Live

***Meeting dates may be changed due to member availability, changes will be publicized.**