



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
MAINE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
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AUGUSTA, MAINE
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To: All Maine EMS Licensed Paramedics and Service Chiefs

From: Scott A. Smith, RN, CEN, NREMT-P, I/C
Education & Training Coordinator

Re: 2006 PIFT Program

Date: December 7, 2006

Dear Colleague:

Maine EMS and the MDPB are pleased to announce that on December 6, 2006, the Board of EMS approved the 2006 Paramedic Interfacility Transfer Program (PIFT). This program represents a new direction in EMS provider education in Maine and will serve as the cornerstone for continued system innovations in the future.

The effective date of the 2006 PIFT program is January 1, 2007. After this date, individuals who have completed the 2006 PIFT Program and meet the guidelines below may begin to transport patients who are receiving medications from the classes discussed in the program or who are utilizing the devices outlined in the 2006 PIFT curriculum. In order to function under the 2006 PIFT program after this date, you must:

1. Be a Maine EMS licensed paramedic in good standing within your region
2. Complete the new 2006 PIFT program or have current certification from the University of Maryland Baltimore County Critical Care Transport program
3. Work for a service that has been approved by Maine EMS to operate under these expanded PIFT guidelines.

To facilitate a smooth transition, Maine EMS and the MDPB are allowing a **six-month grace period** for paramedics to be trained in the new PIFT program. During that time, paramedics who have taken previous versions of the PIFT program may perform interfacility transports using the *old* guidelines under which they were previously trained. *Paramedics who have not completed the 2006 PIFT Program may only care for patients receiving the medications listed in the July 2005 MEMS Protocols as PIFT medications until they have completed both the update training and their service has been approved to function as a PIFT provider by MEMS. Effective July 1, 2007, PIFT transfers may be completed only by paramedics that have successfully completed the 2006 PIFT Program and are working for as a part of a MEMS approved PIFT service.*

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Maine EMS has instituted additional requirements for services that now wish to complete interfacility transfers under the PIFT program. A PIFT Service Application must be submitted to Maine EMS for review and approval before the service may utilize the 2006 PIFT guidelines on any PIFT interfacility transport. **This new application must be completed even if a service has been providing PIFT transfers in the past**, since both a service medical director and an updated QA/QI plan that includes a 100% retrospective review of all PIFT calls are now required to operate under the 2006 PIFT Program guidelines. During the six-month implementation period, services may continue to provide transfers using only the medications listed in the July 2005 Maine EMS Treatment Protocols as PIFT medications or the normal medications on the Maine EMS approved formulary but all services wishing to continue providing PIFT services after July 1, 2007 must become PIFT eligible by that date. After July 1, 2007, services not upgrading to the new PIFT 2006 program (including meeting all service level requirements) may only transport patients with normal paramedic medications in place (those listed in the Maine EMS formulary).

At present, Maine EMS will only grant credit for the University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC) Critical Care Transport Program to paramedics in lieu of completing the Maine EMS 2006 PIFT Program. Paramedics electing to use the UMBC program are still encouraged to participate in the 2006 PIFT training program to familiarize themselves with these new guidelines and procedures. UMBC CCT graduates must maintain current certification and provide a copy of their certificate to Maine EMS before engaging in PIFT transfers utilizing the 2006 guidelines. *Should your UMBC certification lapse, you must complete the Maine EMS 2006 PIFT Program to continue operating as a PIFT paramedic.*

Services who wish to provide transport services utilizing the Maine EMS 2006 PIFT Program guidelines should contact Maine EMS for a PIFT Service Application or download one from the MEMS website at www.maine.gov/dps/ems.

Paramedics and services wishing to schedule PIFT training programs should contact their Regional Office. All PIFT Instructors must meet specific requirements determined by MEMS and the MDPB in order to teach the 2006 PIFT Program. Prior PIFT instructors will not automatically be approved to teach the new program. Several Train-the-Trainer programs will be scheduled by Maine EMS in January- please watch the MEMS website for application details or check with Scott Smith at Maine EMS.

The 2006 PIFT Training Program has been standardized for statewide delivery, however, individual service medical directors and operations supervisors are responsible for ensuring that their staff are competent in the operation of any specialty care devices allowed under the PIFT guidelines. Maine EMS is awarding standardized CEHs for the PIFT program as follows: Category # 1- Ops- 2 hours; Category # 4- ALS Topics- 6 hours; Category # 5- ALS Skills- 2 hours= 10 hours total. Services may add additional hours to the curriculum through the normal CEH approval process to cover training specific to your local equipment or procedures.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (207) 626-3862 or via email at scott.a.smith@maine.gov.