



STATE OF MAINE
 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
 MAINE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
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Dear Colleague:

I am proud to be able to write this introduction to the Maine EMS 2006 Paramedic Interfacility Transfer Program, or PIFT. The revisions to this program that have occurred represent a dramatic step forward in paramedic practice in Maine. The Medical Directions and Practice Board (MDPB) has entrusted us as prehospital professionals with the responsibility to step forward and fill a needed niche in the transport environment. With this ability to utilize additional skills and knowledge comes a professional responsibility to continue learning outside of the classroom. The move away from a medication formulary that delineates specific agents to a list of drug categories will require most of us to invest time in study of new materials that may not have been covered in depth, or at all, in our initial training programs. Every paramedic who completes transfers under this new PIFT curriculum will need a renewed commitment to lifelong learning to further our own knowledgebase and skills for the benefit of our patients.

The PIFT program serves as the base of standardized knowledge for paramedics across our state when performing interfacility transports. Individual services and providers must tailor the program to the specific equipment they utilize and the patient population they serve. This program sets the minimums- individual service medical directors and training officers may include additional information they feel is relevant to their unique circumstances. Further, the MEMS Education Committee and MDPB recognize that future developments in the transport arena may require refinements to this program. In the end, patient safety and the responsibility for successful completion of the PIFT transport will rest with one individual- the paramedic providing direct care. Paramedics in Maine are an exceptional group of providers who are more than up to the task of embracing this challenging new program and implementing it successfully.

Should you have any questions or suggestions for improvements in this program, please feel free to contact me at (207) 626-3860 or scott.a.smith@maine.gov.

Sincerely,



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