



Arkansas Department of Health

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Governor Mike Beebe

Paul K. Halverson, DrPH, FACHE, Director and State Health Officer

To: Arkansas Licensed Ambulance Services

From: Larry New, Regulatory Administrator
Section of EMS & Trauma Systems

Date: May 27, 2009

Re: ACT 553 of 2009 Protocol Implementation

During the 87th General Assembly Regular Session, ACT 553 of 2009 “An Act To Ensure That Patients Can Be Transported To The Facility Of Choice Without Regard To Service Area Restrictions” was approved. This new law will go into effect August 1, 2009. In order to prepare for the implementation of the new transport procedures, the Section of Emergency Medical Services & Trauma Systems (Section) is requiring all licensed ambulance services to develop a “Transport Protocol” to incorporate standards as outlined in this ACT.

All Arkansas licensed ambulance services are **required** to submit a copy of their “Transport Protocol” to the Section by **June 24, 2009** for approval. The Section encourages licensed ambulance services to work closely with their medical director to establish transport protocols. To assist in the development of your service’s “Transport Protocol”, a copy of ACT 553 of 2009 is attached. Basic Life Support ambulances services utilizing the current Arkansas Basic Life Support Protocol, shall develop a transport protocol and add it to the Arkansas Basic Life Support Protocol currently in use.

A copy of your protocol must be mailed to the Section of EMS & Trauma Systems 5800 West 10th Street Suite 800 Little Rock, Arkansas 72204. Due date for submission of protocol is **June 24, 2009**. **Your ambulance service must receive written approval from this office prior to implementation of your “Transport Protocol.”** Be sure to add the transport protocol to your service’s current standing protocol manual and review with all current employed emergency medical services providers. If there are any questions or you need assistance please call the office at (501) 661-2262.