



REGULATION RELATING TO MOBILE MEDICAL SERVICE PROVIDERS

WHEREAS, Section 5-301(b) of the Philadelphia Home Rule Charter authorizes the Board of Health (“Board”) to issue Department of Public Health (“Department”) regulations for the preservation and promotion of the health of the people of Philadelphia; and

WHEREAS, numerous mobile medical service providers currently operate within the City of Philadelphia; and

WHEREAS, the provision of healthcare via mobile medical service providers has been shown to improve public health outcomes, particularly by increasing access to essential health services for underserved and medically vulnerable patients, including people experiencing homelessness and people who use drugs; and

WHEREAS, a permitting process for mobile medical service providers administered by the Department will enhance the Department’s ability to improve coordination among mobile medical service providers and facilitate opportunities for continuity of care for patients; and

WHEREAS, a city-wide permitting process can strengthen the Department’s understanding of the mobile medical services that are offered within the City and their public health impacts; and

WHEREAS, greater coordination of mobile medical services can improve health outcomes for patients and reduce negative externalities for the communities hosting the mobile medical service providers; and

WHEREAS, the Board intends for the permitting system to help ensure that mobile medical services are delivered by health care practitioners according to appropriate standards of care;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Health hereby adopts this Regulation Relating to Mobile Medical Service Providers, as follows:

Section 1. Definitions.

Community mobile crisis response team. Teams operated by the Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disability Services (DBHIDS) for the purpose of providing community-based emergency behavioral health services.

Department. Philadelphia Department of Public Health.

Emergency Overdose Response. Mobile medical services dispatched upon a declaration of the Commissioner of the Department for the purpose of responding to a geographically-specific

cluster of overdose events to provide services to impacted individuals and prevent additional morbidity and mortality.

Health Care Practitioner. An individual who is authorized to practice some component of the healing arts by a license, permit, certificate or registration issued by a Commonwealth licensing agency or board.

Infectious Disease Response. Mobile medical services dispatched upon a declaration of the Commissioner of the Department for the purpose of responding to a cluster of infectious disease case reports to provide services to impacted individuals and prevent additional morbidity and mortality.

Mobile Medical Services. Services provided from a vehicle which entail the diagnosis, prevention or treatment of disease or any ailment of the human body. For purposes of this Regulation, mobile medical services do not include: emergency medical services provided by emergency medical responders as defined in 35 Pa. C.S. § 8103; services from community mobile crisis teams; emergency overdose response; or infectious disease response.

Permit. A Mobile Medical Services Provider Permit issued by the Department pursuant to this Regulation.

Section 2. Permitting Process for Mobile Medical Service Providers

- (a) No person, group, or organization shall engage in the provision of Mobile Medical Services in any part of the City without a Permit obtained from the Department in advance of the provision of such services. The Permit must be renewed every 12 months. Separate applications and Permits are required for each vehicle that will be used.
- (b) Any person, group, or organization seeking to obtain a Permit shall submit the following information to the Department on an application form to be developed by the Department:
 - (1) The name, address, phone number and e-mail address of the contact person responsible for the vehicle seeking a Permit;
 - (2) License plate number, vehicle registration information, and physical description of each vehicle (including make, model, and year) that will be used to provide Mobile Medical Services;
 - (3) The name, address, phone number, e-mail address, and professional licensure information of the Health Care Practitioner(s) who will administer or supervise Mobile Medical Services;
 - (4) A description of the Mobile Medical Services to be provided from the permitted vehicle;
 - (5) A description of the policies related to patient care, personnel training, and personnel supervision that govern the Mobile Medical Services provided via the permitted vehicle;

- (6) An attestation that the Mobile Medical Services provided by personnel from the permitted vehicle will be consistent with the accepted standards of care and safety standards; and
- (7) An attestation that the necessary medical material and supplies will be available to the personnel providing Mobile Medical Services from the permitted vehicle, including, where appropriate, sharps containers.
- (c) Upon receipt of an application, the Department shall review the information submitted to confirm its accuracy and completeness. The Department shall issue a Permit to any person, group, or organization who provides information that meets the requirements of subsection (b). The Permit shall be issued in such a form that, where applicable, it may be used by the permittee to demonstrate compliance with the requirements of Chapter 10-2800 of The Philadelphia Code.
- (d) Failure by a Mobile Medical Service Provider to comply with the requirements of this Regulation and related provisions of Chapter 10-2800 of The Philadelphia Code may result in the suspension or non-renewal of a Permit.

Section 3. Procedures for Mobile Medical Service Provider Permit Holders

- (a) A permitted vehicle shall maintain a copy of the Permit affixed to the vehicle's driver-side front door when operating in the City.
- (b) Each permitted vehicle must be clearly marked to identify the organizational entity or Health Care Practitioner with which it is affiliated.
- (c) All Mobile Medical Services shall be provided in compliance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act ("HIPAA") and all other applicable laws and regulations.
- (d) Mobile Medical Services shall be provided in a manner that ensures a minimum of 3 feet of clear space on sidewalks to ensure that sidewalks do not become impassable to other members of the public.

Section 4. Emergency Overdose Response and Infectious Disease Response

- (a) The Department shall develop protocols for determining when to declare and rescind Emergency Overdose Responses or Infectious Disease Responses, for purposes of authorizing certain Mobile Medical Services consistent with the requirements of Chapter 10-2800 of The Philadelphia Code. Such a determination shall be based on information collected by the Department from, *inter alia*: medical service providers, City Departments and agencies, community members and other stakeholders in the affected area.