



Standard Guide for Establishing the Qualifications, Education, and Training of EMS, Air-Medical Patient Care Providers¹

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INTRODUCTION

This guide describes the minimal qualifications, education, and training of five, definitive, air-medical providers. These guidelines are built on a foundation of recognized courses that are used to credential patient care providers; emergency medical technicians, nurses, and physicians. The members of the task group are experienced air-medical providers and users with broad and distinctive EMS backgrounds.

1. Scope

1.1 This guide applies only to personnel involved in the provision of *emergency* medical air transport, and does not necessarily address the qualifications, education, and training of specialty care responders or other allied health professionals.

1.2 This guide establishes air-medical nomenclature.

1.3 This guide establishes *minimal* qualifications, education, and training requirements for the air-medical crew member(s) and the air-medical director.

1.4 This guide identifies the general content of the curricula for air-medical education and training.

1.5 It is expected that a standard guide for education and training curricula, certification, and air-medical operations will be developed.

1.6 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*

F 1031 Practice for Training the Emergency Medical Technician (Basic)²

3. Terminology

3.1 *Descriptions of Terms:*

3.1.1 *aeromedicine*—the branch of medicine that deals with the physiological, psychological, pathological, and epidemio-

logical conditions, diseases, and disturbances that arise from flying.

3.1.2 *air-medical*—the practice of air-medicine.

3.1.3 *air-medical crew member(s)* (ACM)—patient care providers on-board medical flights. Identified by the prefix *flight* before their credentialed title (that is, *flight nurse*).

3.1.4 *air-medical director*—a physician who is licensed or otherwise legally authorized to practice and who functions within an air-medical operation as the individual ultimately responsible for the quality of patient care.

3.1.5 *air-medical operations*—that aspect of air-medicine involving policies, procedures, and protocols.

3.1.6 *air-medical patient care providers*—air-medical crew members and air-medical directors.

3.1.7 *air-medicine*—a discipline of medicine associated with the care and management of patients transported by aircraft.

3.1.8 *care*—patient care.

3.1.9 *educational experience*—the accumulation of knowledge and skills through education, training, and clinical practice.

3.1.10 *emergency medical air transport*—the transport of EMS patients by air.

3.1.11 *mission*—the specific patient care task and responsibility that an EMS provider has accepted.

3.1.12 *qualification*—possessing a recognized definable body of knowledge or specific credential (certificate, license, registration, or degree).

3.1.13 *specialty-care responder*—emergency air-medical responders whose mission is clearly defined and exclusively dedicated to the care of patients with specific illness or injuries.

3.1.14 *training*—supervised acquisition of specific skill or judgment, or both.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 This guide provides minimal criteria for development of

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² *Annual Book of ASTM Standards*, Vol 13.01.