The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Health and Human Services

Department of Public Health

Bureau of Health Care Safety and Quality

Office of Emergency Medical Services

**Mobile Integrated Health Care (MIH) Program**

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**TO:** Mobile Integrated Health Care Program Applicants

Mobile Integrated Health Care Program with ED Avoidance Component Applicants

 Community EMS Program Applicants

**FROM:** Elizabeth D. Kelley, MBA, MPH, Bureau Director

**DATE:** November 26, 2018

**RE:** Vehicle, Equipment, and Medication Guidance

Pursuant to 105 CMR 173.100(A)(3) and 173.100(B)(2), Mobile Integrated Health (MIH) programs and Community EMS programs must ensure that all deployed vehicles are appropriate for the clinical encounter when responding to an MIH call, Community EMS call, or scheduled home visit. This guidance provides minimum standards for programs when determining the appropriateness of such deployed vehicles and the condition of equipment and medications transported in such vehicles for a given clinical encounter.

**Vehicles**

All vehicles used by MIH or Community EMS providers must be appropriate to the clinical standards for treatment and shall meet all Registry of Motor Vehicle standards for legal and safe operations. In accordance with the requirements of 105 CMR 170.000, *Emergency Medical Services System,* and 105 CMR 173.100(A)(1), (2) and 105 CMR 173.100(B)(1), ***no patient with a need (or the potential need) for immediate medical attention shall be transported in any vehicle except by an ambulance.***

**Equipment**

* Consistent with the policy and procedure requirements contained within 105 CMR 173.100(A)(8)(n) and 105 CMR 173.100(B)(3), all equipment and medical devices stored on MIH or Community EMS vehicles shall be maintained in good working order at all times, and in accordance with manufacturers’ recommendations.

**Medications**

* Consistent with the policy and procedure requirements contained within 105 CMR 173.100(A)(8)(i) through (k) and 105 CMR 173.100(B)(3), all MIH and Community EMS programs must ensure **all** medications and controlled substances are securely stored in accordance with all applicable standards of the Department’s Drug Control Program and 105 CMR 700.000, *Implementation of 94C,* as well as the manufacturer’s recommendations, including any temperature requirements.
* The MIH or Community EMS program must ensure each health care provider providing services and treatment in the applicable program maintains appropriate and current registration to possess and store controlled substances and instruments for administration of such controlled substances. If controlled substances are being transported, either a licensed healthcare professional with appropriate and current registration must be responsible for them at all times, or the transporting vehicle must have appropriate and current registration to cover the activity.

We appreciate your effort to ensure these important patient safety and quality of care considerations are addressed by your MIH or Community EMS program, and operationalized by your program’s health care personnel and providers in their clinical encounters with patients. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact the MIH manager at MIH@state.ma.us or via phone at (617) 753-8484.