Policy: Medical Authorization – Granting, Maintenance, and Rescission

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Approved By: Dr. Brian Metcalfe
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1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish the process by which regulated paramedicine providers obtain, maintain, and, if necessary, have rescinded Medical Authority under the direction of the **Office of the Provincial Medical Director (OPMD)**. Medical Authority is the delegated privilege to provide patient care in accordance with the provincial Medical Authority Program, clinical practice guidelines, and standards of professional conduct.

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2. Scope

This policy applies to all paramedicine providers and other regulated professionals practicing under the delegated Medical Authority of the Provincial Medical Director within Newfoundland and Labrador.

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3. Definitions

- **Medical Authority:** The delegated privilege granted to a licensed provider to perform patient care under the authority of the Provincial Medical Director, consistent with established clinical practice guidelines.
- **Provider:** Any licensed paramedicine professional regulated by the Newfoundland and Labrador Paramedicine Regulation (NLPR) and requiring medical authority from the OPMD to practice within the integrated public EMS program.
- **CQI:** Continuous Quality Improvement, including education, feedback, and case review designed to support provider development and patient safety.

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4. Policy Statement

Medical Authority is a privilege, not a right. It may be granted or rescinded by OPMD under the delegated authority of the Provincial Medical Director. Providers are expected to demonstrate ongoing competency, compliance with clinical guidelines, and commitment to continuous improvement in patient care. Medical Authority must be maintained by providers employed within the public integrated emergency health services system.

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5. Procedures

5.1 Granting of Medical Authority

1. **Eligibility:**
    - Hold a current, valid licence from NLPR at the level of practice requested.
    - Be employed by Newfoundland and Labrador Health Services or be required to maintain Medical Authorization by Medavie Health Services NL or another agency approved by OPMD for the explicit purpose of providing patient care within the public integrated emergency health services system.
    - Be practicing within the public integrated emergency health services system.
2. **Orientation:**
    - Complete the OPMD Medical Authority Program orientation provided as a component of NLHS onboarding.
3. **Application:**
    - Submit an application for Medical Authority to OPMD. This shall be signed by a NLHS training representative confirming completion of the OPMD Medical Authority Program orientation.
    - Provide a copy of your NLPR licence confirmation.
4. **Examination:**
    - Successful completion of online guideline review examination at the appropriate training level.
    - The examination is required for all initial applicants or any returning applicant that has had a lapse in medical authority of greater than two years.
5. **Issuance:**
    - Medical Authority is granted by the Provincial Medical Director.
    - OPMD shall provide confirmation of medical authority to a provider authorized under the program.
    - The provider is added to the active Medical Authority roster with OMPD.

5.2 Maintenance Medical Authority

Providers must:

1. Maintain a valid NLPR licence at all times.
2. Participate fully in assigned education, training, and CQI activities.
3. Adhere to all provincial clinical practice guidelines, operational standards, and directives issued by OPMD.
4. Engage with feedback from the Continuous Quality Improvement and Training Program and demonstrate compliance with education, training and/or remediation assigned through the QA/CQI process
5. Meet all renewal requirements established by the OPMD.

5.3 Rescission of Medical Authority

OPMD may restrict, suspend or rescind a provider's Medical Authority in any of the following circumstances:

1. Demonstrating unsafe or incompetent clinical practice that potentially jeopardizes patient safety.
2. Failing to comply with education, CQI, or competency requirements.
3. Engaging in professional misconduct or ethical violations.
4. NLPR has restricted, suspended, or rescinded the paramedicine provider's licence.

Process:

- **Immediate Suspension:** The Provincial Medical Director or designate may immediately restrict, suspend or rescind Medical Authority if urgent patient safety concerns exist.
- **Notification:** Providers will receive written notice of restriction, suspension or recission, outlining reason(s) for the action.
- **Opportunity to Respond:** Providers will be given the opportunity to provide written or verbal representation prior to final determination, except where urgent action is required.
- **Final Decision:** The Provincial Medical Director shall make the final decision regarding the status of a paramedicine providers medical authorization.

Reinstatement:

- Medical Authority may be reinstated following successful completion of remedial education, competency assessment, or other requirements determined by OPMD.

6. Responsibilities

- **Provincial Medical Director / OPMD:** Grant, renew, restrict, suspend, or rescind Medical Authority; develop provincial QA/CQI program; oversee compliance and ensure safe patient care.
- **Employers / Service Operators:** Support provider participation in education and CQI; report concerns regarding provider competency to OPMD.
- **Providers:** Maintain clinical competency, comply with authorization requirements, and practice within delegated Medical Authority at all times. Notify OPMD of any change in NLPR licence status.

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7. Documentation

OPMD will maintain complete records of all applications, renewals, suspensions, and revocations related to Medical Authority.

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8. References

- Emergency Health and Paramedicine Services Act
- NLPR Licensing Standards
- OPMD Medical Control Program Clinical Practice Guidelines
- Quality Assurance and CQI Program Standards