

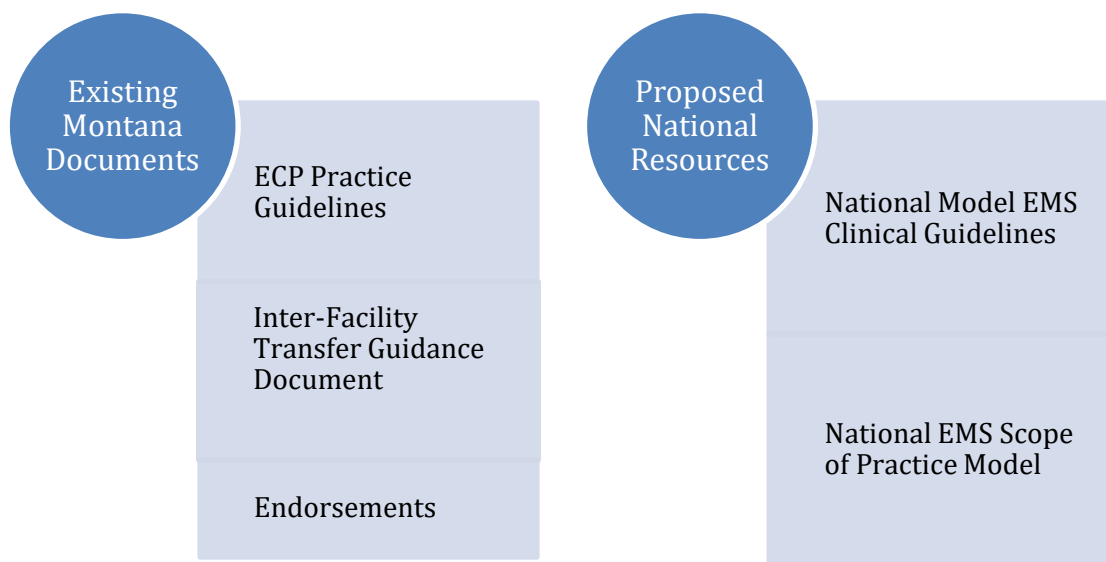


To: Licensees and Stakeholders
From: Sam Hunthausen, Executive Officer, Department of Labor and Industry
Re: Montana Emergency Care Provider (ECP) Scope of Practice and National Model Clinical Guidelines.

HISTORY ON SCOPE OF PRACTICE DOCUMENT

Over the past few years, the Board of Medical Examiners has made many changes to standardize education, training, examination, and licensing qualifications. In Spring 2024, it began a project to modernize and simplify its regulatory and practice guidelines documents.

In April 2024, staff made a presentation to the Board about patient care standards and guidelines, offering a proposal to update the Montana ECP Practice Guidelines, with the goal of harmonizing Montana ECP Practice Guidelines with national standards.

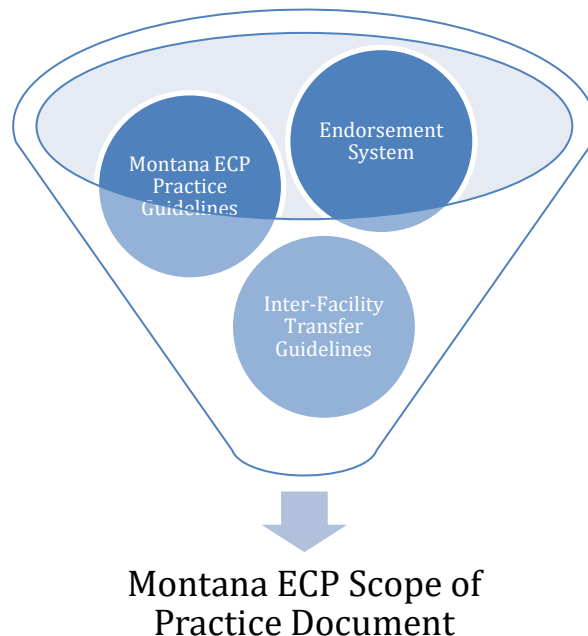


The National [Model EMS Clinical Guidelines. \[inasemso.org\]](https://www.inasemso.org/) and the [National EMS Scope of Practice Model 2019: Including Change Notices 1.0 and 2.0 \[ems.gov\]](https://www.ems.gov/) were summarized. Staff provided a preview of a concept for a Montana-specific scope of practice document which could address the deficiencies in the national documents by incorporating the Montana endorsement system. The fundamental question posed to the Board was: **Would pairing the *National EMS Scope of Practice Model* (that incorporates the Montana endorsement system) with the *National Model EMS Clinical Guidelines* meet the needs of the Montana ECP community?**

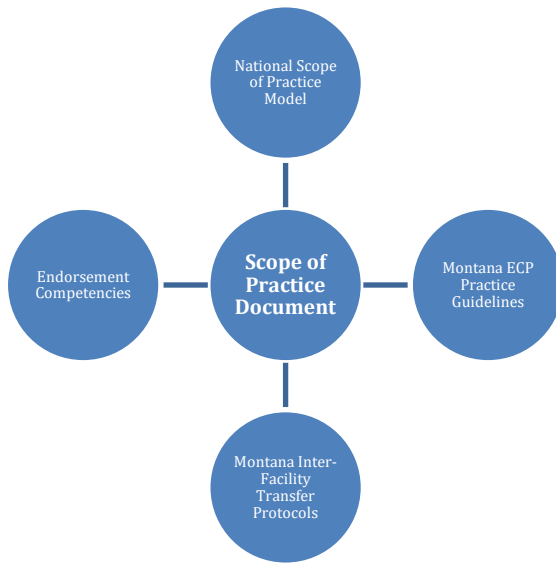
The Board agreed to solicit review of the proposal by the EMS Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee reviewed the documents in detail during two meetings held in September 2024.

EMS SCOPE OF PRACTICE

In October 2024, the Board discussed ECP scope of practice, because understanding how Montana scope of practice is defined shapes consideration of any practice guideline/protocol. Under the current system, the Montana [ECP Practice Guidelines](#), the Montana [Interfacility Transport Guidance Document](#), and the Montana [endorsement system](#) govern ECP scope of practice. Between these three sources and a medical director's delegation and oversight, it was often difficult to determine whether a certain task is within or outside the scope of a particular ECP. In many cases, a person needed to review multiple sections of the *Montana ECP Practice Guidelines*, the *Interfacility Transport Guidance Documents*, and the endorsement application competencies lists to make an informed decision as to whether their practice complies with Montana regulations. It was determined that a concise, consolidated scope of practice document would provide regulatory clarity, making it easier for ECPs and medical directors to understand their scope, thereby enhancing patient safety. Department of Labor & Industry staff synthesized these three areas into one comprehensive document.



The EMS Advisory Committee provided detailed and substantial comment and recommendations on sequential drafts of the document, and those comments are reflected in the published final document. This document is intended for use as a companion to the National Association of State EMS Officials' [Model EMS Clinical Guidelines Version 3.0 \(March 2022\)](#). The content of this document is derived from the expected competencies of various levels of ECPs when faced with a variety of emergent medical conditions, as outlined in the [National EMS Scope of Practice Model 2019: Including Change Notices 1.0 and 2.0](#) (August 2021), and it illustrates the Montana [endorsement system](#) into a color-coded table.



In addition the EMS Advisory committee evaluated the Montana Scope of Practice Document against the [National EMS Scope of Practice Model 2019](#), the Montana [endorsement system](#), the Montana [ECP Practice Guidelines](#), and the Montana [Inter-Facility Transport Guidance Document](#).

THE EMS Advisory Committee unanimously recommended adoption of the EMS Scope of Practice Document at its September 24, 2024 Meeting.

EMS CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINES

Next the Board considered the existing *Montana ECP Practice Guidelines* and *Inter-Facility Transfer Guidance Document* against the *National Model EMS Clinical Guidelines*. Staff shared its analysis of comparison between sections of the documents. For example, compare “Abdominal Pain” on pages 51-54 of the [National Model EMS Clinical Guidelines](#) to page 14 of the Montana [ECP Practice Guidelines](#). The National Model EMS Clinical Guidelines are organized in a predictable manner, outlining clinical management by medical condition, but they do not reflect scope of practice by provider level, as in the Montana-based documents and [endorsement system](#). Because the endorsement system is central to the structure of Montana ECP practice and allows a medical director to extend an individual’s scope, a Montana Board companion document (the aforementioned Scope of Practice document) was determined to be necessary to provide clarity to ECPs and medical directors. Staff asked the EMS Advisory Committee and the Board to consider the following questions:

- Do the National Model EMS Clinical Guidelines cover all conditions addressed in the Montana Guidelines?
- Are there additional topics that the National Guidelines cover that the Montana Guidelines do not cover?
- Are there any discrepancies that require review/resolution?
- What interval is an acceptable review cycle?

The EMS Advisory Committee unanimously recommended adoption of the National Model EMS Clinical Guidelines at its September 24, 2024 meeting and in October 2024, the Board of Medical Examiners moved to adopt [The National Model EMS Clinical Guidelines. \[nasems.org\]](#) The Board also moved to adopt the [Montana ECP Scope of Practice Document](#). The Board, EMS Advisory Committee, and staff continued to work on the Medication Table included in the Scope of Practice Document through May 2025. Final Documents were published to the website in August 2025.