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## ADVISORY FROM THE CENTER FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

**#2022.06**

To: EMS Chiefs, EMS Coordinators, Medical Directors, EMS Practitioners

From: Jason M. Rhodes, MPA, AEMT-C, Chief of Emergency Medical Services

Date: November 14, 2022

Subject: EMS practitioners working in hospitals and healthcare facilities – emergency regulation

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Effective November 10, 2022, the RI Emergency Medical Services Regulations [[216-RICR-20-10-2](#)], section 2.5(E)(1)(b), has been amended on an emergency basis as follows until March 10, 2023:

- b. *Notwithstanding any Regulation or statewide protocol to the contrary, EMS practitioners are authorized to perform functions based upon his or her level of education and licensure in a licensed healthcare facility for the duration of the State of Emergency declaration arising out the 2019 novel coronavirus.*
- (1) *In performing his or her functions and responsibilities, the EMS practitioner must follow orders from a licensed physician, provided said orders are within the scope of practice of the EMS practitioner, and be under the supervision of an on-site physician, physician assistant, advance practice registered nurse or registered nurse.*

The goal of this emergency rule is to provide additional staff to hospitals and other healthcare facilities, necessitated by the current surge in respiratory cases that require hospitalization and concurrent staffing shortages. The State of Rhode Island is requesting any available licensed EMS personnel to provide support to hospitals and healthcare facilities in Rhode Island during their off-duty hours to augment their current staffs.

However, it is imperative that all EMS agencies in the state remain operational at optimum capacity to provide emergent and non-emergent interfacility transportation. Therefore, the state is strongly urging all interested EMS practitioners to work their scheduled shifts at their EMS agencies for continuity in the provision of emergency medical services in the state. At no time should EMS practitioners use vacation, sick or personal time to instead work in a hospital or healthcare facility. Any shifts worked in a hospital or healthcare facility should be during regularly scheduled time off and should not interfere with necessary rest to prevent fatigue.

The State of Rhode Island needs your assistance is getting through this challenging time and greatly appreciates your willingness to help provide medical care within a divergent setting.