

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES
BUREAU OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
#SP-057-PHS-EMS**

CLARIFICATION OF OBSERVANCE OF SERVICE AREA UNDER 9 A.A.C. 25, ARTICLE 9

This substantive policy statement is advisory only. A substantive policy statement does not include internal procedural documents that only affect the internal procedures of the agency and does not impose additional requirements or penalties on regulated parties or include confidential information or rules made in accordance with Arizona Administrative Procedure Act. If you believe that this substantive policy statement does impose additional requirements or penalties on regulated parties, you may petition the agency under Arizona Revised Statutes Section 41-1033 for a review of the statement.

The purpose of this substantive policy statement is to clarify the requirements established under Arizona Administrative Code (A.A.C.) R9-25-907 for observance of a ground ambulance service certificate holder's service area, including the interpretation of the phrase "service area's dispatch" as that phrase is used in A.A.C. R9-25-907(1).

A.A.C. R9-25-907 prohibits the certificate holder of a certificate of necessity from providing emergency medical services or transport "within an area other than the service area identified in the certificate holder's certificate of necessity except:

1. When authorized by a service area's dispatch, before the service area's ground ambulance vehicle arrives at the scene; or
2. According to a back-up agreement."

The Arizona Department of Health Services (Department) interprets A.A.C. R9-25-907 as follows:

1. Except under the circumstances listed, A.A.C. R9-25-907 prevents a certificate holder from providing emergency medical services and transport within an area not identified in the certificate holder's certificate of necessity.
 2. A.A.C. R9-25-907 does not apply when a ground ambulance service provides emergency medical services or transport within an area that is not covered by a certificate of necessity issued by the Department.
 3. A certificate holder may also provide emergency medical services or transport within an area other than the service area identified in the certificate holder's certificate of necessity:
 - a. According to a back-up agreement or mutual aid agreement with the ambulance service that has a certificate of necessity in that service area; or
 - b. When the "service area's dispatch" (the dispatch center for the service area in which the emergency medical services or transport would be provided) authorizes the ground ambulance of a certificate holder that does not have a certificate of necessity in that service area to provide the emergency medical services or transport.
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