

Testimony
Administrative Rules Committee
Tuesday, September 14, 2010
North Dakota Department of Health

Good morning, Chairman Klein and members of the Administrative Rules Committee. My name is Tom Nehring, and I am director of the Division of Emergency Services and Trauma for the North Dakota Department of Health. I am here to provide testimony concerning the rules that have been carried over for consideration.

The rules adopted in Article 33-36 changed some terms to be in agreement with terms used nationally. The rules adopted in Article 33-38 concern trauma rules. At the June 10 hearing, we submitted the entire rule change package, including the changes in the trauma rules. To clarify, the answers I provided to the committee's standard questions are inclusive of trauma, as well, and we have received no negative comments regarding the changes in trauma rules.

With regard to the changes on rules 33-11-01.2-17, we have spoken with the administrations of the ambulance services that serve Mandan and West Fargo. They have assured us they have no difficulty in meeting the nine-minute response times in those communities and have no problems with inserting the communities of Mandan and West Fargo into 33-11-01.2-17.1.b.

The response times for rural and frontier ambulance services as stated in the rule 33-11-01.2-17.1.a are already being met. Since there is currently compliance with this rule, we do not anticipate it will create a hardship for volunteer ambulance services.

During the last committee hearing, concern was raised about the stress on an ambulance service vehicle if it is used in the emergency vehicle operations course. The course previously required by the rules includes a serpentine driving course as well as emergency braking, which did cause undue wear and tear on ambulance vehicles. The new rules will no longer require the driving portion of the emergency vehicle operations course and instead will make this an optional part of the curriculum. We are also suggesting that if the driving portion of the course is included, it be limited to backing an ambulance and intersection control.

The minutes of the June 10 committee meeting noted that the section relating to sanctions also was carried over. We are unaware of any issues concerning sanctions. I am happy to field any questions you may have.

This concludes my testimony. I am happy to answer any questions.