Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment *Health Facilities and Emergency Medical Services Division* **Emergency Medical and Trauma Services Section**	
SUBJECT: **Triage Tag Guidelines**	
Date: September 1, 2012	___ Replacement page(s) Of Part _____ ___ Addition of page(s) To Part _____ _X_ New

EMTS Section Chief signature ___*Michelle Reese*___ Date ___6/11/13___

Summary:

In accordance with the minimum equipment requirements for ambulances specified in 6 CCR 1015-3, Chapter Four – Licensure of Ground Ambulance Services, the department has the authority to approve triage tags. This policy specifies the elements a triage tag or triage system shall have in order to be deemed approved by the department. The department does not approve any specific brand of tag or triage system, but does encourage overall compatibility of triage and tracking systems developed for use in mass casualty situations.

Background:

It is common for mass casualty triage systems to categorize patients during a mass casualty into the following groups:

   A. Expectant (Black) for patients not expected to survive or already deceased
   B. Immediate (Red) for patients requiring immediate transport
   C. Delayed (Yellow) for patients where transport can be delayed and
   D. Minor (Green) for patients not in need of urgent care or transportation

Policy:

Colorado approved triage tags and systems must meet the following requirements:

   A. Be capable of categorizing patients into at least the four triage categories listed above

   B. Contain a sufficiently unique identification number

   C. Contain a 1D or 2D barcode associated with the unique identification number capable of being read by commercially available barcode scanners used in conjunction with the *Intermedix EMTrack*™ system, or any successor system, maintained by the Emergency Preparedness and Response Office of the department.

The department further encourages EMS response organizations to provide training and conduct regular exercises involving the use of triage methods and the application of triage tags and triage systems in order to effectively prepare for mass casualty incidents.