

**EMERGENCY HEALTH SERVICES BRANCH
TECHNICAL SERVICES UNIT**

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT PROCUREMENT CONSIDERATIONS

November 2002

With the choice of various medical equipment and supporting supply sources growing, Upper Tier Municipalities and Designated Delivery Agents need to be well informed before they field trial and/or procure new or replacement equipment. There are operational and other decisions to be considered before these choices are made.

You should consult with your own purchasing, legal and other relevant medical departments (Base Hospital), where appropriate, for any further considerations and direction prior to purchasing a particular product. To aid in deciding which medical equipment best suits your local needs; the following points are recommended to form part of your evaluation of a product:

- Is the product compliant with any minimum requirements found in the current version of the *'Provincial Equipment Standards for Ontario Ambulance Services'* (Equipment Standards)?
- Does the product comply with any applicable portion of the current version of the *'Ontario Provincial Land Ambulance and Emergency Response Vehicle Standard'* or other standards issued under regulations of the *Ambulance Act*?
- What product testing (clinical or field trials) has been done to support the clinical efficacy of the device? Are the copies of the test results available for your review?
- Does the product line of accessory components fully meet your requirements? Do the accessory components meet all standards within the current version of Equipment Standards, where applicable?
- Are accessory components interchangeable and/or compatible between different manufacturer's products?
- Do the physical dimensions, characteristics and ergonomic design of the product address potential health and safety issues for patients being transported and, for paramedics during patient movement and transfer in and out of an ambulance?
- Are other ambulance services currently using the same product? What experiences do they have regarding the use of the product?
- Has a training program been developed for paramedics, that describes the proper use of the product and, that complies with any health and safety requirements? Have other ambulance services used the training program and if so, what has been their experience?
- What are the warranty terms and servicing/repair arrangements offered by the manufacturer or distributor?
- What compatibility and warranty issues, if any, exist in interchanging this product with other manufacturers' equipment or accessory components?
- Where applicable, is the product properly licensed and approved for sale in Canada?
- Is the product capable of being safely secured within all types of ambulances and properly fitting the given storage location within them?