



## AHTA Medical Services Policy and Guidelines

Due to the high-risk nature of the sport of Eventing it is imperative that appropriate life saving medical services are on site during the event to provide the best level of services to individual competitors. Members of the Alberta Horse Trials Association (the "AHTA") have made it clear that safety is top priority for Eventing. In order to ensure our members get the best possible care when something does happen, the AHTA has implemented a Medical Services Policy for all AHTA supported competitions.

### Policy

The recommended standard wherever possible is to have an Advanced Life Support ("ALS") ambulance on site which will include the provision of at least one Advanced Care Paramedic ("ACP").

The minimum standard for a medical services provider at an AHTA supported competition is to have a Basic Life Support Ambulance ("BLS") onsite which includes the provision of at least one Primary Care Paramedic ("PCP"). In situations where this is not possible, a PCP with a Mobile Treatment Centre ("MTC") that is stocked with all the appropriate equipment is acceptable.

The AHTA does not support the hiring of an Emergency Medical Responder ("EMR") or First Responder on their own as they are not sufficiently trained or equipped to provide life saving medical services in the event of an accident.

Medical service providers with experience with horse related events are preferred and will be better able to provide support.

### Recommendations

AHTA has determined that eventing is a high-risk sport. The majority of the event locations in Alberta are in isolated areas. Therefore, the travel time to appropriate Alberta Trauma Services is more than 30 minutes away, and in some cases more than 1 hour away.

Current Alberta Trauma Services Hospitals:

Zone	Event	Hospital	Approx Travel Time
Calgary	Cochrane	<a href="#">Foothills Medical Centre</a>	28 Minutes
Central	Alhambra ----- -- Buster Prentice Creek	<a href="#">Red Deer Regional Hospital</a>	12 Minutes ----- -- 1 hour 6 mins
Edmonton (North)	Mind's Eye	<a href="#">Royal Alexandra Hospital</a>	43 Minutes

Edmonton (South)	Beaumont	<a href="#">University of Alberta Hospital</a>	28 Minutes
North	Grande Prairie	<a href="#">Queen Elizabeth II Hospital</a>	15 Minutes

**\*Note:** It is important to keep the travel time in mind when procuring a Medical Service Provider. There will be additional time for the ambulance to respond to the scene and then transport to a Trauma Service Hospital.

### Medical Control Protocols by Service Provider

In order to ensure that the onsite medical provider can effectively manage equestrian related incidents that may occur we recommend that event organizers discuss various scenarios with the service provider. Once they are aware of the scenarios, they would know which Medical Control Protocol would apply for each scenario. This would ensure they are prepared for those types of incidents.

The following scenarios may occur at a 3 Day Event:

- Non-riding activities
- Fall off horse
- Horse falls on individual
- Individual hits stationary object (jump, tree, fence, etc)
- Individual run over by horse
- Individual dragged by horse

Resulting in the following injuries:

- Long Bone Fractures
- Spinal Injuries
- Internal Trauma
- Head Related Injuries (Concussions)
- Surface contusions
- Soft Tissue Injuries

Type of Participants

- Youth
- Younger Adults, Middle Age Adults, and Older Adults
- Male, Female, Prefer not to say

[Medical Control Protocols Here](#)

Resource:

1. [Equestrian Injuries](#)  
Paul McCrory Michael Turner  
Centre for Health, Exercise and Sports Medicine and Brain Research Institute,  
University of Melbourne, Parkville, Victoria, Australia; Chief Medical Adviser,  
Jockey Club, London, England
  
1. [Concussion FAQs](#)