



## *Position Statement*

# ***EMT-Intermediate administration of narcotic pain analgesics***

*Adopted July 13, 2002 by the  
**Emergency Medical Services Association of Colorado, Inc.***

Emergency medicine as a profession has historically under-treated pain in its patients. Recent emphasis on better pain management has been advocated throughout healthcare and has been adopted as a key issue by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations (JCAHCO).

Within Colorado the Board of Medical Examiners (BME), on the advice of the EMS Medical Advisory Group has historically hesitated to allow EMT-Intermediates to administer morphine sulfate, or other narcotic/non-narcotic pain medications. EMSAC believes that effective pain management should be available to EMS patients throughout Colorado.

EMT-Intermediates serve as the primary prehospital ALS professional in many rural areas throughout the state, and therefore must be authorized to treat pain effectively.

Use of narcotic medications requires adequate training, effective controls, clinical oversight and ongoing quality assurance. The 1999 EMT-Intermediate curriculum allowing the administration of narcotic pain medication has been adopted by the State Emergency Medical and Trauma Advisory Council, but not yet implemented. The EMT-Intermediate scope of practice should be adjusted accordingly, by the BME, and until that occurs, reasonable scope of practice waiver requests for EMT-Intermediate administration of pain medication should be approved.

