



March 16, 2026

Dear Fire Chiefs Association/Base Hospitals/EMS Medical Directors/Ambulance Association:

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has issued a final [rule](#) implementing the *Protecting Patient Access to Emergency Medications Act of 2017 (PPAEMA)*. The rule became effective **March 9, 2026** and created a new registration category under the federal regulatory framework enabling EMS Agencies to register and obtain their own DEA registration for the administration and management of controlled substances.

For agencies operating in Arizona, these federal requirements apply in addition to existing state EMS regulations administered by the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS). As a result of the final rule, the ADHS has identified the need to initiate an exempt rulemaking to amend A.A.C. Title 9, Chapter 25 pertaining to protocol for requesting authorization to register under the *Protecting Patient Access to Emergency Medications Act of 2017*. In the interim, and while the rulemaking process progresses, EMS agencies are advised to review their operational procedures and readiness to comply with the new federal regulations.

The ADHS will continue to share updates as available, including a tentative timeline for the protocol for requesting authorization to register. For questions regarding this memo please reach out to the Bureau of EMS and Trauma System (BEMSTS) at emct.ems@azdhs.gov.

Sincerely,

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