

Non-hospital Medical and Surgical
Facilities Accreditation Program

ACCREDITATION STANDARDS

Class 3 Local Anesthesia
Facility Emergency Cart

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Introduction

In accordance with the NHMSFAP Emergency Preparedness accreditation standard, non-hospital facilities are required to have an emergency cart that is stocked with emergency medications and equipment appropriate to the class of the facility. The emergency cart must be portable and located in a common patient care area. In addition, the emergency cart medications and equipment must be within their labelled expiry date, accessible and organized.

Class 3 facilities provide topical or local anesthesia only which may include the addition of single-agent oral sedation if needed. These facilities are expected to be able to manage the following conditions until paramedics arrive: cardiac arrest, chest pain, anaphylaxis, hypoglycemia, local anesthetic toxicity, and over sedated/narcotized patients.

Class 3 local anesthesia facility emergency cart

No.	Description	Reference	Risk	Change	Asmt.
C3EC1.0	EMERGENCY CART				
C3EC1.1	Emergency medications and equipment required of a class 3 facility are located on the emergency cart.				
C3EC1.1.1	<p>M Self-inflating bag-valve-mask.</p> <p>Guidance: This item should be stored on the top of the cart and be contained in a clear plastic bag to protect it from contamination during storage.</p>		C		P, F
C3EC1.1.2	<p>M Automated external defibrillator (AED).</p> <p>Guidance: The AED is not required to have print-out capability.</p>		C		P, F
C3EC1.1.3	<p>M AED pads.</p> <p>Guidance: A minimum of two (2) sets of unopened AED pads are stocked on the cart. The pads are within the manufacturer-labelled expiration date.</p>		C		P, F
C3EC1.1.4	<p>M Emergency oxygen tanks with regulator and nipple attached.</p> <p>Guidance: Two emergency oxygen tanks are required. At minimum, one tank must be safely secured to the emergency cart. The second may be in a wheeled stand located beside the emergency cart or in the immediate vicinity of the emergency cart and must be solely dedicated to the emergency cart. If the second oxygen tank is not secured to the emergency cart, then it is labelled "For Emergency Use Only" and not used for any other purpose.</p>		C		P, F
C3EC1.1.5	<p>M Portable battery-operated suction with tonsil suction attached.</p>		C		P, F

No.	Description	Reference	Risk	Change	Asmt.
C3EC1.1.6	<p>M Emergency care algorithms and drug information.</p> <p>Guidance: Current emergency care algorithm cards are located on the cart. These include cardiac arrest, chest pain, anaphylaxis, hypoglycemia, local anesthetic toxicity, suspected stroke and over sedated/narcotized patient.</p>		C		P, F
C3EC1.1.7	<p>M CPR backboard.</p>		C		P, F
C3EC1.1.8	<p>M Clipboard with arrest forms and pen.</p> <p>Guidance: The arrest forms are triplicate copies so that the original is retained by the facility and two copies follow the patient, one for emergency health services personnel and the other for the receiving hospital. While the use of carbonless copy paper is preferred, inserting carbon-paper between the original and each intended copy is also acceptable.</p>		C		P, F
C3EC1.1.9	<p>M Stethoscope.</p>		C		P, F
C3EC1.1.10	<p>M Gloves.</p> <p>Guidance: The box of clean gloves should be located on the top of the cart.</p>		C		P, F
C3EC1.2	<p>Emergency airway equipment required of a class 3 facility is located on the emergency cart.</p> <p>Guidance: The drawers of the cart should be stocked according to function (i.e. airway management, medications, IV start, IV fluids and tubing, miscellaneous).</p>				
C3EC1.2.1	<p>M Oral airway size 8 cm.</p> <p>Guidance: The oral airway is single-use.</p>		C		P, F

No.	Description	Reference	Risk	Change	Asmt.
C3EC1.2.2	<p>M Oral airway size 9 cm.</p> <p>Guidance: The oral airway is single-use.</p>		C		P, F
C3EC1.2.3	<p>M Oral airway size 10 cm.</p> <p>Guidance: The oral airway is single-use.</p>		C		P, F
C3EC1.2.4	<p>M Simple oxygen mask.</p> <p>Guidance: At minimum, two (2) are stocked on the cart.</p>		C		P, F
C3EC1.2.5	<p>M Tonsil suction catheter.</p> <p>Guidance: At minimum, one (1) tonsil suction catheter (e.g. yankauer) is stocked on the cart in addition to the tonsil suction catheter attached to the portable suction.</p>		C		P, F
C3EC1.2.6	<p>M Suction tubing.</p> <p>Guidance: One (1) suction tubing is stocked on the cart in addition to the suction tubing attached to the portable suction.</p>		C		P, F
C3EC1.3	Emergency medications required of a class 3 facility are stocked on the emergency cart.				
C3EC1.3.1	<p>M ASA non-enteric coated.</p> <p>Guidance: One (1) small bottle of chewable aspirin is stocked on the cart. The tablets are contained in the manufacturer's packaging/bottle.</p>		C		P, F

No.	Description	Reference	Risk	Change	Asmt.
C3EC1.3.2	<p>M Dextrose 50%.</p> <p>Guidance: A minimum of two (2) 50 mL pre-filled syringes or vials (0.5 g/mL) totalling 50 grams are stocked on the cart. Manufacturer pre-filled syringes are preferred.</p>		C		P, F
C3EC1.3.3	<p>M DiphenhydrAMINE.</p> <p>Guidance: A minimum of two (2) vials/ampoules (50 mg/mL) totalling 100 mg are stocked on the cart.</p>		C		P, F
C3EC1.3.4	<p>M EPINEPHrine.</p> <p>Guidance: A minimum of two single-dose pens of 0.3 mg EPINEPHrine are stocked on the cart.</p>		C		P, F
C3EC1.3.5	<p>M Flumazenil.</p> <p>Guidance: A minimum of two (2) vials (0.5 mg/5 mL) totalling 1 mg are stocked on the cart. Required if benzodiazepines are on site and/or if patients are instructed to take benzodiazepines on the day of the procedure prior to arrival at the facility.</p>		C		P, F
C3EC1.3.6	<p>M Glucagon.</p> <p>Guidance: A minimum of two (2) vials (1 mg/mL) totalling 2 mg are stocked on the cart.</p>		C		P, F
C3EC1.3.7	<p>M 20% Lipid emulsion.</p> <p>Guidance: A minimum volume of 500 mL is stocked on the cart. Only required if bupivacaine or ropivacaine are on site.</p>		C		P, F

No.	Description	Reference	Risk	Change	Asmt.
C3EC1.3.8	<p>M Naloxone.</p> <p>Guidance: A minimum of two (2) vials (0.4 mg/mL) totalling 0.8 mg is stocked on the cart. Manufacturer pre-filled syringes are preferred. All sites are required to have naloxone in their emergency cart even if no opioids are stocked on site.</p>		C		P, F
C3EC1.3.9	<p>M Nitroglycerine spray.</p> <p>Guidance: One (1) multi-dose spray of 0.4 mg nitroglycerin per metered dose is stocked on the cart.</p>		C		P, F
C3EC1.3.10	<p>M Salbutamol puffer with spacer.</p> <p>Guidance: One multi-dose puffer of 100 mcg salbutamol per metered dose is stocked on the cart. Spacers are not to be used for more than one patient. Used spacers are discarded and replaced.</p>		C		P, F
C3EC1.4	<p>IV and medication preparation equipment required of a class 3 facility are stocked on the emergency cart.</p> <p>Guidance: The drawers of the cart should be stocked according to function (i.e. airway management, medications, IV start, IV fluids and tubing, miscellaneous).</p>				
C3EC1.4.1	<p>M IV primary infusion tubing/administration sets.</p> <p>Guidance: At minimum, two macro-drip sets with access ports are located on the cart.</p>		C		P, F
C3EC1.4.2	<p>M Normal saline.</p> <p>Guidance: Either 500 mL or 1000 mL bags for a total of one liter of normal saline.</p>		C		P, F

No.	Description	Reference	Risk	Change	Asmt.
C3EC1.4.3	M Tourniquet. Guidance: At minimum two (2) non-latex tourniquets are stocked on the cart.		C		P, F
C3EC1.4.4	M Alcohol swabs.		C		P, F
C3EC1.4.5	M IV cannula 20G. Guidance: At minimum, two (2) 20G are stocked on the cart.		C		P, F
C3EC1.4.6	M IV cannula 22G. Guidance: At minimum, two (2) 22G are stocked on the cart.		C		P, F
C3EC1.4.7	M Small transparent dressings.		C		P, F
C3EC1.4.8	M 2x2 gauze.		C		P, F
C3EC1.4.9	M Tape.		C		P, F
C3EC1.4.10	M Razors. Guidance: At minimum, two (2) disposable razors are stocked on the cart.		C		P, F
C3EC1.4.11	M Medication labels. Guidance: Plain labels for labeling syringes and IV bags/minibags satisfy this requirement. The label must be large enough to clearly write the name of the medication and the dose/concentration of the medication.		C		P, F

No.	Description	Reference	Risk	Change	Asmt.
C3EC1.4.12	<p>M Normal saline 10 mL single-dose vials.</p> <p>Guidance: At minimum, five (5) vials (10 mL) of non-bacteriostatic normal saline for the dilution of medication are stocked on the cart. Manufacturer pre-filled saline syringes (e.g. BD PosiFlush™) are not an appropriate substitute and are not to be used for the reconstitution or dilution of medication.</p>		C		P, F
C3EC1.4.13	<p>M Syringes 10 mL.</p> <p>Guidance: At minimum, three (3) are stocked on the cart.</p>		C		P, F
C3EC1.4.14	<p>M Needles.</p> <p>Guidance: Various sizes of needles for a minimum total of three (3) needles are stocked on the cart.</p>		H		P, F
C3EC1.5	<p>Additional supplies required of a class 3 facility are stocked on the emergency cart.</p> <p>Guidance: The drawers of the cart should be stocked according to function (i.e. airway management, medications, IV start, IV fluids and tubing, miscellaneous).</p>				
C3EC1.5.1	<p>M Blood pressure equipment.</p> <p>Guidance: The blood pressure equipment is dedicated to the emergency cart (i.e. not used for routine pre/post-operative assessment and then returned to the cart when not in use).</p>		C		P, F
C3EC1.5.2	<p>M Pulse oximeter.</p> <p>Guidance: The pulse oximeter is dedicated to the emergency cart (i.e. not used for routine pre/post-operative assessment and then returned to the cart when not in use).</p>		C		P, F

No.	Description	Reference	Risk	Change	Asmt.
C3EC1.5.3	<p>M Glucometer.</p> <p>Guidance: There must be a glucometer readily available within the facility.</p>		C		P, F
C3EC1.5.4	<p>M Scissors.</p> <p>Guidance: Medical emergency scissors, also known as EMT Bandage Shears or Survival Shears, are stocked on the cart. These scissors are designed to provide powerful cutting ability and have a flat end to get safely under fabric (e.g. clothing, bandages).</p>		C		P, F
C3EC1.5.5	<p>M Pen light.</p>		H		P, F
C3EC1.5.6	<p>M Sharps container.</p> <p>Guidance: The sharps container should be located on the top of the cart or attached to the side of the cart.</p>		H		P, F

References

1. American Heart Association. ACLS: advanced cardiovascular life support – provider manual. Ottawa: Heart & Stroke Foundation; 2016.
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4. Holmes A. Emergency & medical treatment guidelines. Vancouver: Iridia Medical; 2018.
5. Institute for Safe Medication Practices Canada; Healthcare Insurance Reciprocal of Canada. Alert: errors with prefilled saline syringes when used to reconstitute or dilute medications. ISMP Canada Safety Bulletin [Internet]. 2012 Oct 30 [cited 2018 Apr 13];12(10):1-2.

Revision history

Date	Revisions
June 28, 2019	Medications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New medications added. • Minimum quantities specified. • Manufacturer pre-filled syringes required for some medications. Other: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substantial format changes and guidance added. • Some supplies have been removed.
March 9, 2022	Other: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portable battery-operated suction equipment added. • Tonsil suction catheter and suction tubing added.
September 10, 2025	No. changed from AEM to C3EC (no content changes) (version 3.3) (published September 10, 2025)
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