

## Emergency Medical Assistants Licensing Board

<b>Acetylsalicylic Acid (ASA) Administration</b> <b>EMALB 2016-20</b>  <b>Responsible Branch: Emergency Medical Assistants (EMA) Licensing Branch</b>  <b>Contact:</b> Clinical Advisor <a href="mailto:ClinicalAdvisor@gov.bc.ca">ClinicalAdvisor@gov.bc.ca</a>	<b>Reference Information (Manual, page number, chapter):</b>
	<b>Replaces former policy:</b> n/a
	<b>Date Effective:</b> December 16, 2016
	<b>Last Update:</b> October 26, 2016
	<b>Next Review Date:</b> January 2019
<b>Keywords</b>	<b>E.g. examinations, regulation, licensure etc.</b>

### 1. Policy Rationale & Purpose:

This policy is intended to clarify what is considered acceptable during EMA Licensing practical examinations when ASA administration is required.

BCAS Treatment Guidelines (BCTG) state that “ASA has been shown to reduce mortality and is one of the most important early treatments the patient can receive”; however, the BCTG do not specify at what point ASA should be administered.

Compared to other interventions for Acute Coronary Syndrome (including giving nitroglycerin and Beta blockers), no other medication has demonstrated a more significant mortality benefit than ASA. Additionally, there is strong evidence that late ASA administration significantly decreases the mortality benefit compared to early administration. ASA administration is advised by dispatchers even prior to paramedic contact.

The 2015 American Heart Association (AHA) guidelines for emergency cardiovascular care advocate for first aid providers to give ASA, even prior to EMS arrival.

### 2. Policy Scope

This policy applies to all candidates taking the EMA Licensing Board practical examinations for the EMR and higher licence categories.

### 3. Policy Statement:

ASA should be considered a time sensitive critical intervention and should be administered directly after completing the rapid body survey (RBS) and history if no allergy or contraindication is present. ASA administration must occur **prior to or concurrently** with obtaining vital signs.

### 4. Legal Authority:

[Emergency Health Service Act Section 6\(5\)\(a\)](#)  
[Emergency Medical Assistants Regulation Section 2\(ii\)](#)  
[Emergency Medical Assistants Regulation Section 3\(3\)\(a\) and \(b\)](#)

### 5. Key Stakeholders:

- EMA Licensing exam candidates

- Training Institutions delivering Board-recognized EMA training programs
- EMA Licensing Branch Examiners
- BCEHS/BCAS

**6. Resources:**

- [BCAS Treatment Guidelines](#)
- [American Heart Association](#)

**Reviewed by the EMA Licensing Board on:** December 16, 2016

**Approved:**



**Date approved:** December 16, 2016

**Drafted by:** Kim Fiege