NH Bureau of EMS-Bulletin

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Message from the Bureau Chief

By the time this newsletter goes out the NH Bureau of EMS will have hosted a presentation on community paramedicine. Community paramedicine is a practice that is being adopted in a few parts of the country, and is being actively pursued by our neighbor, the State of Maine. In some aspects community paramedicine is similar to home health care, but is intended for those patients who do not have access to traditional home health care due to geographic constraints or lack of third party payer reimbursement. Community paramedicine attempts to meet the needs of those patients by enabling specially trained EMS providers in those communities to practice in a non-traditional setting (i.e. care of the chronically ill patient in the home).

The NH Bureau of EMS hosted the presentation to introduce the concept and to gauge the interest of the NH EMS and healthcare communities. Kevin McGinnis, a nationally recognized EMS leader who is leading Maine's community paramedicine project gave the presentation. Individuals who are interested in the presentation but were unable to attend may contact me at Clay.odell@dos.nh.gov for access to a recording of the presentation.

Education Section

Course Audits:
Since September 2011, 95 course audits have been completed and an additional 12 are currently scheduled. Most of the programs audited were refresher programs (RTP) but some initial and transition programs have been audited as well. The audits have reported what we had hoped, that excellent education is happening in NH's EMS classrooms.

Online NREMT Verification:
For providers using on-line recertification through the NREMT, verification of completion of the refresher process should not be completed by the unit training officer until the provider has received a "Certificate of Completion" from the NH Bureau of EMS. A training officer's verification of completion tells NREMT that all required components of the refresher process have been completed. The best way to have proof of the refresher requirements is the official "Certification of Completion" from the Bureau of EMS. Should you have any questions please contact the Education Section.

EMT-Intermediate NREMT Recertification:
The NH refresher process for EMT-Intermediates includes; successful completion of NH authorized EMT-Basic RTP (24 hours), and completion of ALS Continuing Education (12 hours). These 36 hours meet the NREMT requirements for recertification.

There are two options for submitting recertification documentation to NREMT; traditional paper application or by completing the online application.

If submitting recertification documents to the NREMT by paper: include the original "Certificate of Completion" from the NH Bureau of EMS proving completion of the 24 hour EMT-Basic RTP. Also include a list of the 12 hours of ALS level continuing education. These 12 hours should not be listed on page 2 of the NREMT recertification application. Record the remaining 36 hours of continuing education on the chart on page 2 of the NREMT recertification application.

If submitting recertification to the NREMT on-line: choose the state approved/standard EMT-I85 refresher training program option. This auto-matically considers the RTP 36 hours (24 hour EMT-B RTP plus 12 hours ALS continuing education). Do not record the 12 hours of ALS continuing education in the continuing education profile online. Record the remaining required 36 hours of continuing education into the continuing education profile on-line.

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Research & Quality Management

TEMSIS Staff Changes:
Brad Weilbrenner is now working with the NHOODLE program full time. We welcome two new part-time staff, Ron Fitzgerald and Jack Hedges to fill Brad's shoes. Ron and Jack bring a wealth of technical knowledge with them and will help us expand the depth of our technical service to the EMS community.

TEMSIS PDF Printout Reports Updated:
The TEMSIS PDF Reports have been updated. There are currently four new reports available in the system: *Patient Care Report*, *Drop Off* form, *Comprehensive* Report and *Patient Care Report-PHI Free.*

The *Patient Care Report* has been updated to be in large font for faxing, and only prints information that was entered into the run to save on paper. The *Drop Off* form only prints key information found on common paper drop off forms being used locally around the state. The *Comprehensive* report will print all fields from the runform, even if you didn't fill them out. The *PCR PHI Free* is the same as the *Patient Care Report*, but doesn't print the patient name, address, DOB etc.

Advanced Life Support

Protocols:
The protocol committee is moving along very well. Along with updating the protocols, we have been developing the NH Patient Care Protocol Blog. As the 2013 protocols are being reviewed you will be able to comment on their development. We will also be looking for comments regarding typographical or formatting errors. The blog will go live within the next couple of weeks; it will be located at the Resource Center in NHOODLE at: http://www.nhoodle.nh.gov/irc/.

PIFT:
Since we began PIFT on September 1, 2011 until the end of the year, we have 6,440 documented PIFT level transfers in TEMSIS. We have had one self-reported incident where a PIFT crew was not available and other staffing was used. This one incident was reviewed and found to be justifiable due to the patient and weather conditions.

Trauma & Emergency Preparedness

At the December meeting of the Trauma Medical Review Committee (TMRC), Cheshire Medical Center received recognition as an Adult Trauma Level III and Pediatric Trauma Level IV hospital. Cheshire Medical Center was praised in particular for its active involvement with its local EMS community. Both Cottage Hospital and Southern NH Medical Center are up for review by the TMRC in February. Please contact the State Trauma Coordinator at angela.shepard@dos.state.nh if you are interested in learning more about trauma hospital participation.

On February 17th American Heart Association representatives and NH state officials will hold a ceremony to recognize nine towns who achieved Heartsafe Community status during the last two years. Each of these towns has demonstrated tremendous commitment to work together to improve care for its residents with sudden cardiac events. More information about this initiative can be found at: http://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/fstems/ems/defibrillators/heart_safe.html

Field Services

We are headed into National Registry Provider re-licensing time. The letter of notification for all providers expiring 03/31/12 has been mailed (1/12/12) and includes the website address for the newly revised electronic "EMS Provider License Application" and new location for the required NH Patient Care Protocol Exam. This packet has been sent to the address last supplied to the Bureau by the provider. *Unfortunately it has been our experience that a high percentage of these letters are returned because the licensed provider does not assist in keeping our record current,* even though it is required by rule:

Saf-C 5902.08(b) All providers shall report the following, in writing, to the division within 30 days:

(1) Change of name or mailing address; and
(2) Change of unit affiliation(s).

Failure to notify us of address change may result in a lapse in licensure because the mailing was delayed or never received by the expiring provider.
We hope this doesn't happen and ask for all providers' assistance.