NH Bureau of EMS-Bulletin

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Message from the Chief

We are excited to announce that as of January 1, 2013 the 2013 NH EMS Protocols are active and ready to be utilized. EMS Providers may transition to the new protocols any time between January 1st and February 28th. All providers must be practicing according to the 2013 protocols after February 28th.

Implementation of the protocol transition is a responsibility of the providers' EMS Unit. Consult with your Unit leader to determine the process you must undergo to familiarize yourself with the new protocols. The NH Bureau of EMS strongly recommends that Unit leaders require their providers to participate in a rollout program or view the rollout videos on NHOODLE and complete the protocol exam.

The protocols may be found on the NH Bureau of EMS website. Thank you to all those who worked so hard to develop these outstanding protocols.

-Clay Odell

Advanced Life Support

Community Paramedicine

The NH Bureau of EMS has coordinated a task force to develop Community Paramedicine within the State of New Hampshire. The task force meets on a monthly basis at the Fire Academy. This is an exciting opportunity to help fill the healthcare gaps in our communities and expand our profession.

Per the Community Paramedicine Prerequisite Protocol 7.0, "…In NH the community paramedicine concept is envisioned to be an organized system of services, based on local need, which are provided by EMT's, AEMT's and Paramedics integrated into the local health care system, working with and in support of physicians, mid-level practitioners, nursing and other community health team colleagues, and overseen by emergency and primary care physicians. The purpose of the initiative is to address the unmet needs of individuals who are experiencing episodic healthcare issues, and is not intended to address long-term medical or nursing case management."

Our next meeting is scheduled for February 19, 2013 – 10:00 am, at the NH Fire Academy. If you are interested in joining the committee or would like to just sit in to see what it is all about, please contact vicki.blanchard@dos.nh.gov

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Trauma & Emergency Preparedness

Over the past year, several EMS providers have asked, "What does the state trauma system really have to do with me?" In the big picture, any statewide emergency clinical system is a collaborative effort. We hope to support local and statewide partnerships between providers at all levels with the goal of saving lives and minimizing morbidity. To accomplish this we develop protocols, provide education, and work directly with facilities and services to ensure that best practice guidelines are in place.

To many people, the Trauma System is most evident in the Trauma Level designations that we grant to hospitals after a fairly extensive review. In NH we have one adult Level I Trauma Center (DHMC) and one Level II Trauma Center (Elliot Hospital.) NH trauma patients are also served by Level I Trauma Centers in our neighboring states. These hospitals have committed to provide continuous access to trauma specialists. When possible, severely injured patients should be brought preferentially to those facilities.

The 2013 NH EMS Protocols 8.16 and 8.1provide guidelines for helping prehospital providers determine the best destination for trauma patients. As with any protocol, transport decisions rely on the clinical judgment of the provider and their unique understanding of the physical circumstances at the time.

Research & Quality Management

Statewide Field Bridge coming for all services
The Field Bridge will soon be available for all EMS services to use at no expense to the service. This software is free but the service must provide the computers to use the programming. We expect this to be available after the contract is approved by the Governor and Council in March (date still to be announced).

A program called Field Bridge Express (Lite) will be available for up to 35 EMS services. We have obtained funding for 35 site/service licenses. This program can be used with iPads and Android 4.0 tablet devices. Licenses will be issued to services on a first-come, first-served basis. This program will also be available after the Governor and Council approval in March.

Field Services Section

Exciting Licensing News:
During the first week of January 2013 the Division of FST&EMS went live with online application capabilities for all EMS Providers with a 3/31/13 expiration date who are renewing their NH EMS Providers license. The process includes the need for each renewing Provider to have a unique Division-assigned "License Identification Number" (LIN#) which was mailed via first class mail to each provider meeting this criteria (exp. 3/31/13). A notice was posted on the list serve, Facebook page and website making people aware of the letters and alerting them to not disregard that document or they would not be able to license on-line.

Reminder about required equipment on ambulances:
In addition to equipment previously required in administrative rules; as of December 31, 2012 the following items must be stocked on NH licensed ambulances per the following level of inspection/licensure (Note: all lower level equipment is required on the higher level vehicles):

Air Medical Transport level:
- Cardiac Monitor with 12 lead capabilities
- Portable Suction Equipment - constant vacuum capability must be adjustable from 80 – 300 millimeters of mercury.

Basic level:
- Portable & Fixed Suction Equipment - constant vacuum capability must be adjustable from 80 – 300 millimeters of mercury.
- 2013 NH Patient Care Protocols

Intermediate/AEMT level:
- CPAP - One complete and operational device.
- Adult-sized Facilitated Intraosseous - One complete and operational device.

Paramedic Level:
-Manual Defibrillator-capable of 12 Lead EKG, in addition to pediatric defibrillation, adult defibrillation, pacing, and cardioversion which are already required.
-Electronic ETCO2 monitoring device capable of waveform capnography.

Field Services Position has been filled:
Richard "Rich" Cloutier joined the NH Bureau of EMS staff on December 28, 2012 and will hold the Field Services Position previously occupied by Shawn Jackson. We are very excited to have Rich on our staff, and recognize that his life and EMS experiences will be very beneficial to our Bureau and Division.

Education Section

Beyond 2013 Refresher Season
With refresher season almost behind us, the Education section is concentrating on verifying transition applicants for NREMT and issuing of vouchers for the AEMT Transition exams. As EMT-Intermediates prepare to take the exam, remember that the 36 hour Transition course is just a starting point. Providers should be spending a significant amount of time outside the classroom to prepare for the exam. Those candidates who take the extra time to study beyond the classroom are experiencing much higher success rates in taking the exam. If you wish to receive a voucher, contact your Regional Education Specialist.
Moving forward, we are looking at streamlining our processes for submitting documentation for course approvals, exam registration and other items. We have recently rolled out online forms for Instructor/Coordinators to apply for course approvals, and for ALS exam candidates to request verification to test. Online submissions, coupled with other improvements to the process, are anticipated to shave days off the approval processes.