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Richard A. Mason
Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: NH EMS Providers
NH EMS Unit Leaders
NH EMS Hospital Coordinators

FROM: Doug McVicar, MD, Chair, NH EMS Medical Control Board
Dave Strang, MD, Chair, NH EMS & Trauma Services Coordinating Board
John Sutton, MD, Chair, Trauma Medical Review Committee

RE: Requirements for Refresher Training in NH

DATE: July 8, 2010

On behalf of the New Hampshire EMS Medical Control Board, the EMS & Trauma Services Coordinating Board and the Trauma Medical Review Committee, we would like to take this opportunity to share our support of Refresher Training Programs (RTP) and Continuing Medical Education for EMS licensed providers. The medical field and the related knowledge necessary to “keep current” changes frequently. It is our duty to stay current in the field of pre-hospital medicine in order to provide the best possible care to our patients. Regardless of what method you may choose by which to refresh and/or participate in CME, there is merit in each approach. We are certain that collectively we can find additional options to better our system. In fact, this has already been done in accordance with Saf-C 5913.05 “Alternatives to RTP Process” which allows the division to approve alternative procedures to the RTP process that will assure quality and meet the specific training program objectives. For example, one of the new options that was tested and approved is a “modular alternative to refresher training”, which has been offered now for almost two years. We will continue to review options brought forward to insure that we optimize the best plans and programs for our licensed providers, their communities, and the patients that they serve.

Although statements have been made to the contrary, all of New Hampshire’s Physicians and Registered Nurses have a similar responsibility. Physicians are required to complete 100 hours of continuing medical education every 2 years in order to renew their state licenses. In addition many physician specialty boards require the successful completion of a written exam every ten years in order to maintain specialty board certification. Registered Nurses are required to have 30 contact hours in the 2 years immediately preceding license application. In addition, they are required to have at least 400 hours in active practice in the 4 years immediately prior to the date of application, or have completed a board approved refresher program within 2 years of application, or have successfully completed the NCLEX examination within 2 years of application. In addition most nursing specialty certification boards, such as Certified Emergency Nurse (CEN) and Certified Critical Care RN (CCRN), require additional continuing education requirements for recertification.

In the end, it's the trust of the public that we serve that matters most. A large part of keeping that trust is maintaining the highest level of medical standards possible, both for your EMS Unit and yourself. We will continue to work with you and those who represent you in our roles as Board Chairs to keep our EMS & Trauma Systems moving forward and responsive.

Doug McVicar, MD
Chair, Medical Control
Board

Dave Strang, MD
Chair, EMS & Trauma
Services Coordinating

John Sutton, Jr., MD
Trauma Medical Review
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