

NH Bureau of EMS-Bulletin

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JULY-AUGUST 2011

IMPORTANT REMINDERS!!

Please remember that First Responder National Registry Certifications and NH Provider licenses expire at the end of September, not March as do all other Nationally Registered personnel.

Paramedic Interfacility Transport (PIFT) protocols go into effect September 1, 2011. After this date any individual providing interfacility transport of patients at the paramedic level or above must be credentialed as a PIFT paramedic and work for a PIFT credentialed service. To do otherwise is a protocol violation and subject to disciplinary action. An emergency waiver is in place for calls in which a PIFT paramedic is not reasonably available, but this should be an infrequent occasion and will be scrutinized by the Bureau.

-Clay Odell, Bureau Chief NH Bureau of EMS

Education Section

Move to Education Standards / New Certification Classifications

As we move out of the summer and into the fall, more information will become available about the full plan to implement the EMS Education Standards. This includes the new certification classifications; Emergency Medical Responder (EMR), Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT) and Paramedic.

Step One - will be educating the I/Cs about using standards rather than curricula.

Step Two - will include orienting units/departments to the process of moving to new classifications.

Step Three - will include the actual implementation and move from current curricula to standards-based education.

The intent and plan is to make the move for currently certified EMS providers to new certification classifications through the standard refresher process starting in April of 2012.

ALS Testing Registration/Verification Process

As we move towards the summer of 2011 two additional ALS testing sites will be approved and begin offering ALS exams. The final site has yet to be determined but at least one of the additional sites will be in the northern part of the State. The registration process and any related documents can be found on the Bureau website under "Documents and Forms", "Training Education and Exams" and it is called "[ALS Exam Registration and Information](#)".

2011 EMT-Intermediate Transition Program

The 2011 EMT-Intermediate Transition Program will soon become available. The added skills of administration of Glucagon, Nitroglycerin, and Nitrous Oxide have been added to the scope of practice for the EMT-Intermediate. Three Instructor Orientation Programs have been scheduled.

July 27th, 9:00 Amherst Fire Department

August 24th 1:00 at Androscoggin Valley Hospital

September 26th 9:00 at the Fire Academy

As Instructors complete the orientation they will be authorized to teach this new transition program. For information see the [announcement](#) on our website and submit a General Admission Application.

Inside this issue:

Education Section	1
Advanced Life Support	1
Research and Quality Management	2
Field Services	2
Trauma & Emergency Preparedness	2

Advanced Life Support

2013 Protocols

The Protocol Committee is already working on the 2013 update of the protocols. They are diligently reviewing each protocol for evidence based updates. The committee will be bringing forth the Allergic Reaction, Asthma/COPD/RAD, Communications, Diabetic, Hypothermia, and Hyperthermia protocols to the Medical Control Board (MCB) for approval. All EMS Providers are welcome to participate in the process. Contact Vicki Blanchard if you are interested.

Stroke/STEMI Systems

The NH Bureau of EMS continues to work with the NH Stroke Steering Committee in the development of a Statewide Stroke system. Preliminary work focuses around determining which hospitals are using AHA's "Get with the Guidelines" and Joint Commission certification.

Research and Quality Management

NH EMS Survey

The NH EMS Survey will be closing at the end of July 2011. If your service has not yet completed the survey, please do so as soon as possible. If your service has not seen the survey invitation or the several reminders for the survey that included a link yet, please let us know by sending a new email address for your service to TEMSIS@dos.nh.gov, *please include your service name!* Thank you to all of the services who have completed the survey so far!

Advisory Committee Is Recruiting Members

The charter membership for the EMS Quality Management, Documentation and Data Advisory Committee is being finalized. If you have an interest in being on this committee, please contact Chip Cooper at Richard.cooper@dos.nh.gov as soon as possible. Remember, these meetings will primarily be by phone conference and webinar and will require minimal travel.

Trauma & Emergency Preparedness



Site Reviews for Trauma Assignment

Many hospitals are currently undergoing site visit review for trauma hospital assignment. Hospitals currently in the queue include: Littleton Regional Hospital, Catholic Medical Center, St. Joseph Hospital, Cheshire Medical Center and Southern NH Regional Hospital.

NH Trauma Conference Update

The annual NH Trauma Conference, usually held in November will not be held this year. Enrollments have been declining, the Trauma Medical Review Committee (TMRC) needs to focus on the site visit and approval process for many hospitals for the rest of the year, and the economy presents a challenge. The conference may be re-established at another date as determined by the TMRC.

Field Services

Efforts by NH Associations

The three EMS professional associations in New Hampshire – NH Ambulance Association, NH Association of EMT's, and NH Paramedic Association are combining efforts on three projects:

- Creation and training of an EMS Honor Guard for the upcoming state-wide September 11th observance being planned at the State House,
- An EMS Memorial in NH,
- A long term EMS Honor Guard for ceremonies of all kinds.

Anyone interested should either contact one of the three Associations or Kathy Doolan, Field Services Coordinator at Kathy.doolan@dos.nh.gov

Optional Skills for First Responders

First Responder waivers are being accepted for the 2 recently approved skills of oxygen therapy and assessment of vital signs. Once training is complete the Unit should submit a waiver request with all appropriate personnel listed. For further information on the correct format and content of the First Responder waiver (2 skills) please contact the EMS Licensing Coordinator at diane.carrier@dos.nh.gov.

Additionally, the Units that currently hold one of the limited waivers for First Responders that have four skills (oxygen administration, spinal immobilization, fracture fixation and vital signs) associated will be receiving the packet before the summer is over. These are only available to providers that have consistently held this waiver since the inception of statewide protocols (2005). This continued waiver will only be effective until the National Education Standards are in place for the Emergency Medical Responder level.

EMS Awards – Mark Your Calendars!

The Annual EMS Awards will be presented to recipients on
September 28, 2011,
along with the Committee of Merit Fire Awards at the Capitol Center for the Arts in Concord NH.