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TO: EMS Service Directors
EMS Service Medical Directors
EMS Training Centers

FROM: Brian Litza, Chief
Wisconsin Emergency Medical Services Section



SUBJECT: DHS 110 RULE HEARING COMMUNICATIONS

During the week of August 2nd the EMS Section held public hearings in Wausau, Madison, Janesville, Fond Du Lac, and Ashland on Administrative Rule DHS 110, which is the consolidation and update of Administrative Rules DHS 110-113, and 119. Thank you to those who participated both in person and through submission of written comments. Public feedback is a valuable part of the public hearing process and people did have the opportunity to submit written comment if they were unable to attend. Forty-one people did attend the public hearings offering support, concerns and comment with an additional three people making written comments that did not attend a hearing. We are in the process of carefully analyzing all the feedback as we prepare the rule for final submission to the Legislature.

We would like to take this opportunity to address one concern that was consistently brought to our attention. During the course of the hearings, we received feedback that there was not appropriate notification of the hearings to the providers directly from the EMS Section.

On July 1 of this year, the hearing notices were published to the Wisconsin Administrative Rules Website and in the Wisconsin Administrative register per Department policy and Wisconsin law. In addition, notices of the hearings were posted on our website and several of our stakeholder websites. We also reached out to stakeholders and sent group e-mails out on July 1, 2010 and July 29, 2010 to our regular e-mail lists. We verified that many providers received those e-mails; however, others did not. While the cause of the e-mail failure still remains unclear; we will continue to investigate the issue. As stated above, notice of the hearings were posted at numerous websites and in accordance with statutory requirements.

We have made every attempt to assure that communication regarding the administrative rules has been open and straight forward since we began this process in 2007. In addition to last week's public hearings, we organized 12 town hall meetings across the state in order to hear your opinions and concerns as we were developing the rules. We discussed and updated the status of the rules at every public presentation and at almost every EMS Board meeting. We have been transparent in the drafting of these rules.

We sincerely apologize to those of you who did not receive notice due to this technical difficulty. The new electronic licensing system allows us to move forward with implementation of a new notification process that should allow each individual in the licensing system to select what types of correspondence he or she wishes to receive electronically. Going forward, this will be the primary messaging system for our EMS Section and will ensure that information is shared as widely as possible. However, we will continue to post public hearing notifications in accordance with state law and on stakeholder websites.

If you have any additional concerns on this issue, please feel free to contact our office.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to servicing the citizens and visitors of Wisconsin.