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Numbered Memo Series 11-01

January 2011

TO: First Responder and Ambulance Service Directors
EMS Service Medical Directors
EMS Training Centers
EMS Board, Partners, and Stakeholders

FROM: Brian Litza, Chief
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SUBJECT: Wisconsin Administrative Code DHS 110

There have been many people that have assisted the EMS Section with the development of the new revised administrative rule and we would like to again relay sincerest thanks and appreciation for their hard work and dedication to this project.

As promoted, the new rule (DHS 110) has gone into effect on January 1, 2011. As a reminder, it is a consolidation of the old DHS 110, 111, 112, 113, and 119. There has been positive feedback regarding the flow for reading and the new layout making it easier to find information.

The purpose of this memo is two-fold: 1) share how the EMS Section is planning on implementing the new rule and 2) make note of a few differences that people should be aware.

With implementation of any new rule there will be a transition period. The general rule of thumb will be; if the process was started under the old rule it will be completed under the old rule (this is not absolute; there will be cases that will need discretion because of potential contradictions between the two). Anything submitted or started after January 1, 2011 will need to meet the new rule. It is highly suggested that everyone read and become familiar with the rule; it may be found at <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/rsb/code/dhs/dhs110.pdf> .

Over the next two months there will be information sent out that will assist in bringing to light the significant changes to the rule. Many of the changes were documentation of current practice and others were clarifications to many outdated and conflicting statements between the different rules. Some of the important changes in the rule include easier requirements for reciprocity, implementation of administrative fees, creation of a critical care paramedic and tactical EMS endorsement, creation of guidelines for air medical, new EMS instructor levels, new options for license renewal, new requirements for first responder certification, and numerous others.

This is a significant redesign of the rule but there are two items that need to be specifically mentioned. The first is certification requirements for the first responder. The major change is that new applicants for a first responder license must obtain NREMT certification. Any class that starts after January 1, 2011 will continue to require each student to pass a written and practical exam within the course and then successfully complete the NREMT written exam for NREMT certification. NREMT certification became a requirement for licensure/certification at

the first responder level effective January 1, 2011. There were many reasons why the stakeholders and the department felt this was necessary. Primarily it meets the new national standards and national scope of practice and will allow better movement of providers from state to state. The second reason was the assurance of quality and consistency. There was found to be a large diversity in the number of hours for a course between different training centers as well as how the final exam was deployed. This change assures more consistent quality and provides a standardized assessment for competency.

The second significant change is the administrative fees. The new fees were put in place to cover the costs of some of the more time consuming tasks the section performs. The important ones for this memo are for late renewal (\$50), reinstatements (\$75), reciprocity (\$50), and verification of licensure to another state (\$25). As stated earlier, the general rule of thumb that will be used is "if the process was started under the old rule it will be completed under the old rule". Regarding the reinstatement fees and the late renewal fees the old rule timelines for these will remain but there will now be a charge as outlined in the new rule. Those applying for a Wisconsin license from out of state will be required to submit a reciprocity fee with their application.

The final fee is for verification of licensure to another state. The section is working on a public page for "look-ups" so hospitals and other states can verify a license on line. However, some states still require the completion of an actual form. When the section receives these requests the individual will be notified that it cannot be processed until the administrative fee for verification of the license is received by the office. At this time the E-licensing system is being set-up to create a reciprocity verification request to automate the payment process. Until the E-Licensing system is set up to receive electronic payments the fees will need to be submitted via cashiers check or money order made payable to the Wisconsin EMS Section. Please look for further information coming out from the section regarding the new rule in the near future.