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

FROM: Brian Litza, Chief
Wisconsin Emergency Medical Services Section

SUBJECT: EMS News and Updates

Administrative Rules – Part 1

As mentioned in the last memo we will be taking some time to publish information regarding the new administrative rule DHS 110. We will be walking through the rule from beginning to end to highlight many of the changes or revisions that have been implemented. This memo will discuss DHS 110.05, 110.06, 110.08, and 110.09.

DHS 110.05 License or certificate required. In this section it indicates who must have a license or certificate to perform emergency medical care or operate as a service. This has been in the past rules. However, there are some exceptions to this requirement as outlined specifically in 110.05 (1) (a). This provision allows those that are part of a disaster or State identified emergency response as a volunteer (as outlined in Wisconsin Statute 257.03) to be exempt from being credentialed with a service to operate under their license. This has been an issue with search and rescue groups specifically not being able to use all their training because they do not have medical direction as part of a service in which they operate. This clears the issue and allows people volunteering under these circumstances to not be required to be credentialed to use their skills.

DHS 110.06 Application for initial license or certificate; initial training requirements; endorsements. In this section we have introduced two new endorsements: critical care paramedic (CCP) and tactical EMS (TEMS). Based on ambulance service requests and Medicare rules we created the CCP. This level will have its own scope of practice which will now begin to limit what will be in the paramedic scope of practice. An individual wanting this endorsement must have completed the current WI CCP curriculum or hold a current certification from the UMBC CCEMTP. If there has been in house training that meets the current curriculum this will be considered for approval only if the training is approved by the EMS Section and completed by December 31, 2011. This is not intended to allow a service to quickly offer and complete and in-house training; rather, it is to provide the ability to complete any gaps between already received training and the curriculum. Other formal programs will be considered if submitted to the EMS Section for review. To renew the CCP credential the paramedic will be required to complete 24 hours of training during the biennium on any topic covered in the critical care paramedic curriculum.

Tactical EMS. Over the years the EMS Section has had many inquiries from law enforcement individuals as to their ability to operate under their EMS license on a tactical team. Since a licensed individual must be credentialed with a service and authorized under a medical director they could not operate under their license on the team. The new TEMS endorsement allows a tactical team to be recognized by the EMS Section. In turn, it provides the ability of an EMS credentialed person to operate within their license on the tactical team. We are finalizing the components but the TEMS team will need to provide a short operational plan to be recognized by the EMS Section. The elements are outlined in DHS 110.42 and we will be providing more information as it is finalized.

DHS 110.08 Practice level upgrades; downgrades. This provision was added to help clarify the issue of upgrading and downgrading a license. To upgrade a license the individual takes the appropriate education, sits for the exam, and then applies for the higher level. However, on occasion a person may decide to drop from a higher level to a lower level. Generally this occurs during the biannual renewal. When a person wishes to downgrade their license they will complete the appropriate form in e-licensing and then show documentation of refresher at either their current license level or the one to which they are downgrading.

DHS 110.09 Expiration date; expired license or certification; late renewal; reinstatement. In the past a licensee was afforded 1 year to do a late renewal, then an additional 2 years to complete for a reinstatement. After three years a license is considered lapsed and the complete training program must be repeated. In the new rule these periods were reduced. The new late renewal period is from July 1 to December 31 (6 months) and it now includes a fee of \$50. The new reinstatement period is from January 1 of the next year until the end of the new biennium (additional 18 months) and includes a fee of \$75. Those not renewed within the biennium will fall under the lapsed license category and would need to complete the entire initial training to become re-licensed.

First Responder National Registry Clarification

The revised DHS 110.06 provides new and updated requirements for First Responder certification. DHS 110.06 requires that an applicant for an initial First Responder certificate hold current National Registry of EMTs certification. This **does not** apply to First Responders who hold current State of Wisconsin certification as a First Responder. As long as they maintain continuous certification, they will be grandfathered and the National Registry requirement will **not** apply. This provision only applies to those that started a course after January 1, 2011.

Additionally, we understand that the current Pearson Vue testing sites may not meet the needs of First Responders in some areas of the state. We are working with Pearson Vue and EMT Training centers to identify additional testing sites.

New applicants for a First Responder certificate must have completed an initial First Responder course within the 24 months prior to the application.

Initial licensure and timely renewal of EMS licenses and certificates remain at no charge to the individual (other than reciprocity applicants).

Service Director Course

The EMS Board in conjunction with the EMS Section has been working on development of a service director's course for new and veteran directors. The purpose of the course is to provide an introduction and resources to directors to be better prepared for their role of directing the operations of a service. The final revisions of the program are being done and it is slated to be unveiled on April 5th and 6th, 2011 at the Madison Sheraton. There will be five of these courses scheduled between then and August 2011 and they will be offered at various locations across the state. The plan is to make this a Friday evening, all day Saturday, and half day Sunday course. Friday evening will be WARDS and E-Licensing training (this is not mandatory to complete the course). Saturday and Sunday will be the core of the course. There will be more details out shortly and registration for the course will be through WI-Train so certificates can be issued and people may receive continuing education credit for their participation. It is the intent to develop this course for on-line deployment so it can be taken at any time during the year as well as the Section providing a face-to-face course annually.

Licensing Audits

During the last renewal cycle we allowed people to submit information for training without supplying the documentation. When everyone completed their renewals they verified that all the information was true and correct and that they are subject to an audit. The EMS Section has begun its process of auditing the week of January 31st. The E-Licensing system randomly pulls applicants for a renewal. Licensees will receive an e-mail from our EMSS e-mail address requesting they submit documentation within 15 days. The materials to be submitted should include all written documentation of the refresher activities as well as the CPR/ACLS/PALS cards (as applicable) that were used at the time for renewal. This is our way of assuring that applicants have supplied true and correct information. Please remember that anyone found falsifying their continuing education and renewal application will have disciplinary action up to and including revocation. If you have received an e-mail and are not sure of its authenticity please contact Fred Hornby by e-mail at Frederick.Hornby@dhs.wisconsin.gov.

Customer Service Survey

The EMS Section is currently working on internal initiatives to review our processes and be more customer service focused. As part of this process we will begin by surveying all the licensed and certified individuals as well as service directors. This will help us prioritize processes that can improve our over all customer service. Please look for these surveys in your e-mails over the next several weeks. There will be a service director survey and an individual survey. Please take the time to complete the survey as we will be making them as short as possible and anonymous. Your honest and candid feedback will be invaluable to our process. Thank you in advance for your assistance in make WI EMS better!



EMS Week is May 15-21, 2011
<http://www.acep.org/emsweek/>

Lidocaine for Pain Relief

Services adding intraosseous infusion (IO) access to their Operational Plans must keep in mind that Lidocaine used to reduce the pain/irritation of an infusion can ONLY be used by those levels where it appears in the scope of practice. This is only included in the scope of practice at the Intermediate and Paramedic levels and CANNOT be used by Intermediate Technician level services.

EMS Funding Assistance Program Updates

Application packets for the SFY2012 EMS Funding Assistance Program were mailed to your transporting EMS service last month, and completed applications are beginning to be submitted back to our office. The majority of these application packets are complete, but there are some common errors that are starting to appear:

- 1) Please note section six on the second page of the application. In this section, three entries need to be made: The number of basic EMTs on your roster as of 3-15-10, the total number of all EMTs (basic through paramedic) on your roster as of 3-15-10, and the number of calls that your service had from 7-1-09 through 6-30-10. These three data points enter into the formula that determines the amount of the funding your service receives.
- 2) The expenditure report reflects how your service spent the EMS FAP funds from the previous cycle. This previous cycle was for State Fiscal Year 2011, which is from 7-1-09 through 6-30-10. Please report all purchases using FAP funds during this time period on the form. This is a change from past years, where service calendar fiscal year reporting was permitted.

Remember that the due date for all applications remains March 15. There is a 30 day grace period, but do not rely on this grace period as an extension of the due date. Complete applications that do not need follow up will still be accepted and processed up until April 15th. Incomplete applications submitted between March 15th and April 15th that need follow up and corrections will be reviewed as time permits, but award is not guaranteed. Any application received after April 15th will be denied.

If you have any questions regarding the EMS Funding Assistance Program, please contact the EMS FAP Coordinator Paul Wittkamp at (608) 261-9306 or paul.wittkamp@wisconsin.gov. You may also refer to the EMS FAP information on our website at <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/ems/EMSsection/FAP.htm>.

EMS Hypoglycemia Treatment Survey

A very short survey from the Diabetes Prevention and Control Program and the EMS Section regarding the treatment of hypoglycemia in the unconscious patient is forthcoming. The survey tool is being developed to assess standard treatment of these patients and to identify any barriers to preferred treatment. We are expecting a completion time of about 2 minutes. Please assist us by taking the time to complete the survey as quickly as possible. .

Homeland Defense Equipment Registry (HDER) Website Launched **Online registration begins to receive used first responder equipment**

A new website will allow emergency first responders to apply for eligibility to receive used equipment from the federal government under the Homeland Defense Equipment Registry (HDER) program. HDER is a federal used equipment distribution program that is offered competitively to local first responder jurisdictions. The program deploys emergency response equipment that is no longer needed by the federal government. There is no cost to participate in this program.

Agencies not already approved to receive HDER equipment can visit the website <http://hder.oro.doe.gov/> to register and begin the registration, validation and approval process.

Orders made by approved first responder organizations are filled as inventory permits. In addition, factors such as the number of requests, the size of the first responder organization and the area it services, etc. are considered. Approved orders are assembled and sent via freight or FedEx to the requesting agency.

Registrations are being accepted on the site now; sometime in February, HDER will reveal its inventory and begin receiving orders online through the website.

For more information, contact:

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WARDS Update

Since January 1, 2008 there has been a requirement that all EMS services in the State of Wisconsin are to report patient care data into the Wisconsin Ambulance Run Data System (WARDS). It is essential to participate in this system and is a requirement to be in good standing as a provider of EMS in Wisconsin. To assist service directors and managers in learning the capabilities and functions of the WARDS system, the WI EMS Section has and will continue to provide WARDS/E-Licensing workshops. There will be more scheduled around the state through the year.

Some of the benefits of the WARDS system include the following,

- WARDS is easy to use and web based
- A printable report takes the place of the ambulance run report
- Current data is always available to the service
- Continuous quality improvement functions are included in the program
- Service information is available at the manager's fingertips for annual reports, budget requests, training records and other measures of performance
- System can help find spikes in symptoms and allow for investigation and early identification of possible disease outbreaks
- Integrated quality assurance tools with feedback system

As we continue to assure compliance we want to identify those services that are not currently operating in compliance with WARDS under DHS 110.34 (7), (8), & (9). It is very important that these services contact our office as soon as possible to address this issue.

Allenton Volunteer Fire Dept Inc
Amery Fire Dept
Belleville Area Emergency Medical Service
Birchwood Ambulance Service
Chetek Ambulance Service
Cross Plains Area Emergency Medical Service
Elm Grove Emergency Medical Service
Germantown Fire Department
Interstate EMS - Prairie Du Chien Inc
Janesville Fire Department Ambulance Service
Kaukauna Fire Dept Ambulance Service
Life Link III/St Croix Valley EMS
Lifestar Emergency Medical Service LLC
Long Lake-Tipler Ambulance Service
Manitowish Waters Fire Co
Marshfield Fire & Rescue Department
Menomonie Fire Department
Middleton Emergency Medical Service
Mondovi Ambulance Service
New Berlin (City Of) Fire Department
Northwood's Transfer Service
Okauchee Fire Dept
Para Tran Inc
Paramount EMS
Pewaukee Fire Department
Pittsville Fire Department Inc
Poynette Dekorra Emergency Medical Service
Readstown Emergency Medical Services
Shorewood Hills EMS
Spencer Community Ambulance Service
Sullivan Emergency Medical Service Ltd
Sussex Fire Department
University Of Wisconsin - Madison
Waukesha (Town Of) Fire Department
Xtreme Care EMS LLC