



Scott K. Walker
Governor

Dennis G. Smith
Secretary

State of Wisconsin

Department of Health Services

1 WEST WILSON STREET
P O BOX 2659
MADISON WI 53701-2659

608-266-1568
FAX: 608-261-6392
TTY: 888-701-1253
dhs.wisconsin.gov/ems

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TO: All EMS Personnel, Stakeholders, and Partners

FROM: Brian Litza, Chief
Wisconsin Emergency Medical Services Section



SUBJECT: Critical Care Paramedic, WARDS Compliance, Paramedic Intercepts and Special Events, 2012 License Renewal, Air Medical Accreditation Clarification, EMS Patch Information

Critical Care Paramedic

As we implement this new level we wanted to describe the process and hopefully address any concerns that could be inaccurately circulated. Because this level was just incorporated in the new Administrative Rule we realize there are some documents that need to be created and provided to all before they can be implemented.

In order to properly provide this level of care there will be restrictions to the current scope of practice for the Paramedic level. For this change to the scopes to take place there will need to be a transition period. The target date for this to be implemented and all individuals and services to be in compliance will be January 1, 2013. This is intended so that everyone has sufficient time to obtain the appropriate training to be able to provide those skills currently allowed at a Paramedic level that will be transitioned to the critical care paramedic level. In the future some of the things in the current paramedic level will only be allowed in the Critical Care Scope of Practice. So until January 1, 2013 services that have been previously approved to provide patient care at what will become the Critical Care level may continue to do so with their current licensed Paramedics.

Our office is currently completing the Scopes of Practice and Medication Lists to be used at these two levels. As soon as they are complete we will publish them for everyone's use. Please be aware there will be a dramatic change in the paramedic scope of practice.

During the transition period it is expected that those Paramedics that have completed an approved Critical Care course of instruction will apply for the endorsement to their existing Paramedic license. Currently only those Training Centers offering the curriculum that was developed through the University of Wisconsin or from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) will be approved. Other courses may be submitted for approval. We are in the process of reviewing the Iowa Critical Care course. If it is deemed acceptable it will be added to the list of approved courses.

An individual may obtain this endorsement through the E-Licensing system. First go into your individual E-Licensing account. Next click on “*Apply for a License*” then complete the “*Provider Upgrade Application*”. To reduce the time needed to complete the approval process here are some reminders to assist in applying:

- Make sure to choose the correct license level.
- Confirm that all expiration dates for CPR, ACLS, etc. are correct and not expired.
- Attach an electronic copy of the course completion card or certificate. (After choosing the document, make sure to click the *Add* button to complete the attachment process). If you do not have an electronic copy you may submit it through the mail.

There are currently no changes at the Service License level. The service will need to confirm they have approval to function at the Critical Care level. While this may have been included in previous protocols it will specifically need to be identified in the operational plan to provide this level of care past the target date. In addition, as the updated Scopes of Practice and Medication Lists become available both Critical Care and Paramedic level services will need to adopt and incorporate these within their protocols and Operational Plans.

WARDS Compliance

As many services are aware, we are working with the remaining few service to obtain 100% compliance with reporting to WARDS. Any service that is not compliant by May 01, 2011 will be reprimanded. When the Section takes this action it is required to be reported to the Healthcare Integrity and Protection Data Bank (HIPDB) which is part of the National Practitioners Data Bank (NTDB). For those few remaining Service Directors that are not yet compliant, you should be aware that federal agencies (i.e. Medicare) may use this data bank to consider whether an entity is compliance.

For those services that have already contacted our office and provided a timeline to become compliant, now would be a good time to update this information. For those who have yet to contact our office, this will be the final warning. Also for those services that have not provided recent reports, now would be a good time to continue. Per Administrative Rule 110.34(8) you need to be providing data to WARDS within 7 days. This is something we will be starting to monitor.

Intercepts and Special Events for 2-Paramedic level services

There has been recent discussion of this topic. If your service is a Paramedic service that was existence prior to January 01, 2000, you are required to provide 2-Paramedics on each response; this includes intercepts. If you provide a single Paramedic using a “fly-car” or similar rapid response vehicle you are restricted to providing care at the Intermediate level. This can be found in Administrative Rule 110.40(3) and is also referenced in 110.50(1)(d).

For Special Events, the needs of the event along with coordination with the local service will dictate the level of care provided at the event. If a patient requires transport from the event then that transport must comply with the currently approved Operational Plan for that service and DHS 110.50.

2012-2014 License Renewal

This is just a reminder that next June (2012) will be the next round of license renewal. We can't emphasize enough the need to get your renewal activities done sooner rather than later in the biennium. We are hoping to release the renewal forms in January 2012 to provide plenty of opportunity to get everyone renewed by June 30, 2012. For those that hold national registry, the new administrative rule, DHS 110.07 now allows for the "recertification by exam" for the National Registry to be applied to your state license renewal as well. What this means is if you take the national registry exam to recertify your National Registry certification that is all you need to do for refresher activity to renew your Wisconsin license.

WARNING: The National Registry only open this option up 6 months prior to the end of their certifying period (typically March) which means it can be taken any time after October. They only allow one attempt at the exam. If that exam is failed the individual must complete the traditional refresher activities to renew.

Here are a few things to assist you in the process.

- Make sure that you can access your account information prior to your renewal.
- Please make sure that your demographics are up to date in the E Licensing system now and going forward. This includes your US postal mailing address and especially your email address.
- After June 30, 2012 any renewal forms submitted for licensure will be considered a late renewal and will have a **\$50.00** administrative fee.
- Please also remember that you are renewing *your* WI EMS License and you will not need to complete a local credentialing agreement for a service that you are already affiliated with.

☀ Lets work together to make this a successful renewal season! ☀

DHS 110.41 - Air Medical Accreditation Clarification

DHS 110.41(a) states that air medical services licensed before July 1, 2010 shall obtain accreditation from a national accrediting body by July 1, 2015. What the rule implies but does not state is that accreditation is required for all air medical services within the state. Any new service that wishes to operate within the state must hold accreditation to obtain a Wisconsin Air Medical Service license. We are hoping to make this technical change in the rule when we have the opportunity.

IMPORTANT- Wisconsin EMS Patches

SCHENK HUEGEL in Madison is in the process of closing its doors. They will be open through the end of April. SCHENK HUEGEL has been a supplier for public safety supplies, uniforms, as well as the new Wisconsin EMT shoulder patch and rockers.

The staff member that has worked with the patch program in the past will continue to support the Wisconsin EMS patch, and hopes to offer other EMS and public safety supplies on line.

The new source will be **WISCONSIN RESCUE SUPPLY**. This new company will still accept SCHENK HUEGEL order forms. Major credit cards will be accepted along with net 30 Department charges.

The new mailing address is not available as yet, but the new website will soon be functioning at www.wisconsinrescuesupply.com

The new phone number, operational by early May, will be: 608 764 5600.