

Introduction

On behalf of the Bureau of Local Public Health Practice and EMS, let me thank you personally for agreeing to provide medical direction to your local EMS service. This often thankless job is none-the-less critical to the success of pre-hospital care in Wisconsin. It is my hope that upon completion of this program you will not only have a greater understanding of the issues concerned but also an enhanced sense of confidence in your ability to provide medical oversight.

Rick Barney, MD

Former Wisconsin State EMS Medical Director

Purpose

The purpose of this program is to provide physicians who have undertaken the responsibility of providing medical direction to Wisconsin EMS services the necessary information and resources to enable them to perform their tasks with skill and understanding.

Acknowledgments

- This program was adapted from the “Guide for Preparing Medical Directors” developed by the National Association of EMS Physicians and the American College of Emergency Physicians through a grant from the National Highway and Traffic Safety Administration and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
- In particular, we would like to express our thanks to Dr. Jon Krohmer of Grand Rapids, MI

Dedication

Dedicated to the memory of
Jim Berner, MD.

Writing Team

- The EMS Physician Advisory Committee to the Wisconsin Bureau of Local Public Health Practice and EMS reviewed and adapted the NHTSA document with the purpose of making the program more applicable to the needs of the Wisconsin EMS medical director. We wish to thank the following individual members in addition to current and prior PAC members for their time and energy in preparing this program

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Course Overview

- Course is designed to provide all physicians with the general knowledge base necessary to assume the role of EMS Medical Director
- Program will also be valuable to non-physicians involved in providing medical oversight
- Course will provide the tools to assist the medical director, and others participating in medical oversight, in assuming leadership roles as patient advocates in EMS systems
- EMS medical oversight is a interdisciplinary activity with many cooperative roles and activities
- *Medical direction, medical control and medical oversight* will be used interchangeably throughout the course