

Assistant State EMS Medical Director's News

Stroke is the 4th leading overall cause of death in the United States and certainly those of us working in Emergency Medical Services (EMS) in Alabama have seen the devastating effects of stroke on our patients' lives. The vast majority of strokes are ischemic in nature. At present, there is only one approved treatment for acute ischemic stroke, tissue plasminogen activator or tPA. Because tPA has to be administered within the first few hours of stroke onset, delivering this treatment to eligible patients within the established time limits is challenging.

Those of you in central Alabama are likely familiar with the stroke system in place in the Birmingham Regional Emergency Medical Services System (BREMSS) Region. As many of you may have heard, the Southeast Region is now also implementing a pilot program for an acute stroke system. This system is designed to identify acute stroke patients and triage them to hospitals capable of diagnosing acute ischemic stroke and treating eligible patients with tPA. The Southeast Regional Pilot Acute Stroke System (SRPASS) will also have benefits for patients suffering from hemorrhagic stroke in that it will identify available system resources in order to help facilitate transfers when indicated.

Our goal is to establish the SRPASS in the Southeast Region by early 2013. The stakeholders in the Southeast Region have been working diligently with ADPH and EMS for many months to make this stroke system a reality. After implementation of the SRPASS in the Southeast Region, we will re-assess the system and make any necessary adjustments. While this pilot program will not immediately effect operations in any other EMS region or the functioning stroke system in the BREMSS region, our overall objective is eventual implementation of a statewide stroke system.

As study after study validates the notion that regionalization of care for time-dependent illness and injury reduces mortality, it is an exciting time to be part of the development of this system in Alabama. Together we can improve patient care and improve the outcomes for our friends and neighbors who are suffering from this far too common disease.

Sarah Nafziger, MD, FACEP
Assistant State EMS Medical Director

From the Desk of the State EMS Medical Director

I would like to take this opportunity to remind all Emergency Medical Service Personnel (EMSP) to please include the Alabama Trauma Communications Center (ATCC) number in the appropriate data field on the electronic Patient Care Report (ePCR). It is imperative that we have this number if we are going to extract useful data from the trauma system. I certainly believe that all of us associated with the Alabama Trauma System (ATS) would like to see the results of our continued hard work in making the system productive. We cannot see the fruits of our labor without good data. Currently, compliance with placing the ATCC number in the appropriate data field is only twenty nine percent. I think all of you would agree that this low number is just unacceptable. I expect better!

William Crawford, M.D.

State EMS Medical Director

Licensure Update

- There is no longer an inactive status for Alabama licensed EMSP.
- Any licensed Intermediate who has not attended or was not successful in completing the Intermediate Medication and Procedure Course will be re-classed to the EMT level.
- National Registry Amnesty will be available for 2012 renewals from June 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012
- All individuals renewing their license in 2013 will be required to provide a copy of their National Registry card and proof of FULL Alabama Patient Care Protocols completion. This National Registry card requirement does not apply to those who have never acquired National Registry Certification.
- Online individual license renewal will be available January 1, 2013, through midnight, March 31, 2013 (with an additional \$2.00 convenience fee).

Ambulance Driver Qualifications

The requirements for all ambulance drivers are: a valid drivers' license, a current EVOC from an approved EMS course, a current approved CPR course, and a certificate of completion of an approved Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) course effective March 31, 2013. All EMSP who drive an ambulance must maintain an initial approved EVOC course and a refresher every two years.

National Registry Continuing Education

Individuals who have utilized the Mark King Initiative may use continuing education that has been acquired during this initial extended certification period. After this initial certification period the National Registry will only accept continuing education gained within the 24 month certification period. Training officers may use a training mechanism available on www.nremt.org.

Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) Courses

The following are approved EMR courses: EMS approved courses offered through your regional office or a course approved by the Alabama Fire College which should include the Emergency Care Provider Course. These must be on an Alabama Fire College certificate and should be dated before March 31, 2011.

Transition Courses

The National Registry website indicates that all EMSP need to complete a transition course to re-certify. The EMS has determined that Alabama EMSP will not have to take a transition course. The National Registry renewal application will ask "have you transitioned?" All EMSP should respond yes to this question.

Protocol Verification

Protocol verification is a combination of physical skills and scenario competency testing. Listed below are the specific skills that each level should be evaluated on by a Medical Director or Training Officer, during their licensure period to determine proficiency. New protocol scenarios will be posted on the EMS website this month.

Paramedic

- Blind Insertion Airway Devices
- Cardioversion
- Chest Decompression
- Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP)
- ECG (12 lead)
- Endotracheal intubation
- External Pacing
- Hemostatic Agents
- Intraosseous Therapy

Intermediate

- Blind Insertion Airway Devices
- Cardioversion
- Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP)
- ECG (12 lead)
- Endotracheal Intubation
- Hemostatic Agents
- Intraosseous Therapy

Advanced EMT

- Blind Insertion Airway Devices
- Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP)
- Hemostatic Agents
- Intraosseous Therapy
- Cardiac Arrest Management

EMT

- Cardiac Arrest Management
- Spinal Immobilization (seated patient)
- Spinal Immobilization (supine patient)
- Bleeding Control/Shock Management
- Long Bone Immobilization
- Joint Immobilization

National Registry Amnesty

Reinstatement of National EMS Certification for Alabama EMS Licensure

Instructions for the Alabama/NREMT – Mark King Initiative

Follow These Simple Steps to Apply (2012 Alabama State License Renewals ONLY):

- Create an account on the NREMT website.
- Go to www.nremt.org, click on 'Create New Account' located near the upper left corner and follow the instructions. Request User role of: 'National certified EMS professional.'
- Login with the User name and Password you created – follow the prompts to 'Manage your NREMT profile' by completing the requested information (name, address, etc.).
- When your profile is complete, click on 'CBT Candidates.'
- Locate the 'Mark King Initiative' section in the center of the screen. Use the drop down field to select 'Alabama', click Submit.
- The system will process your request to determine your eligibility (if you are not eligible and believe you should be, please contact the Alabama Office of EMS).
- Pay the current National Registry Recertification application fee (EMT-Basic and Intermediate: \$15.00; Paramedic: \$20).
- The NREMT will issue you a National EMS Certification card and provide you with recertification requirements.
- You will continue to recertify with the NREMT throughout your EMS career as a requirement of your Alabama State License.

Deadline to Apply – December 31, 2012

Alabama EMSP who renewed their Alabama state license in 2012 have until December 31, 2012 to create an account and apply for reinstatement. You must have your registry card to renew your license in 2014.

Failure to do so will disqualify you for reinstatement and you will need to re-enter the National Registry following the current entry requirements (proof of state licensure, documentation of a refresher, verification of skills, and successful completion of the current National EMS Certification examination).

Alabama EMSP who have NEVER been nationally registered will have to complete the same continuing education requirements on their next renewal cycle as everyone else and will need to have their hours available for renewal, but will NOT have to provide a Registry card

Mr. Mark E. King (1953 2006) was the State EMS Director for West Virginia, a former NREMT Board member and an EMS provider for over 25 years. It was a vision of his to see states move to requiring EMS providers to maintain their National EMS Certification as a part of moving the EMS profession forward and promoting National EMS Standards. It is, in recognition of his vision and contributions to the EMS Community, that this initiative is named in his honor.

Participation in the Mark King Initiative is authorized by State EMS Agencies that require EMS providers to maintain their National EMS Certification as a condition of their continued state certification/licensure.

Do You Have Questions for EMS Staff?

This is another reminder to those of you calling our office (334) 206-5383:

Complaints, Investigations - Call Mark Jackson

Service Inspections or Service Licenses - Call Hugh Hollon or Kem Thomas

Individual Training, Testing, or Individual Licenses - Call Gary Mackey or Stephanie Smith

EMS for Children, Grants, and Contracts - Call Katherine Dixon Hert

Training Officers Register Your Agency (the employer) on the NREMT Website!

Online re-certification allows:

- certified EMS providers to document their continuing education using the NREMT website
- you to monitor the progress of their continuing education
- you to enter continuing education documentation for all providers at your agency
- electronic verification of continuing education and skills

Persons authorized to serve as a Training Officer by their employer (agency) should register their agency on the NREMT website by following these simple instructions: [How to Register your Agency](#).

User guides for the online re-certification process can be found here: [Online Recertification Publications](#).

Please note:

- Audits and verifications of agencies and Training Officers will be performed.
- There is no fee to register your agency online, this program is a service provided by the NREMT.
- There are no additional fees to Nationally Certified providers who use the online system to document their continuing education. Current re-certification application fees using continuing education are: First Responder = \$10; EMT-Basic/Intermediate = \$15; EMT-Paramedic = \$20

Requests for Information from Regional Offices

EMS would like to request that you comply with any request for information from your regional office. Some Directors are still having issues receiving information and data as requested by the State office. We would greatly appreciate your cooperation and compliance.

Newsletter Reminder

The newsletter is free to anyone as long as they have internet access to our web page www.adph.org/ems. The newsletters can be found under the Notices and Events link found in the menu bar or to all Alabama licensed EMSP who have a valid email address. Our licensure database is used to store your last submitted valid email address, but cannot accommodate unlicensed people. They will have to visit our web site to view or download the newsletter.

If you are not getting our newsletter via email it is either because the email address was sent to us in an illegible or incorrect format or you changed it and did not update it through our office. You can email any changes via emsinquiry@adph.state.al.us or call office staff at (334) 206-5383.

Also, you may have a spam blocker set up on your email. Our office has no way to manually or automatically address this issue. Multitudes of emails are "kicked back" to our office email system with message asking us to complete a number of tasks to be allowed to send you an email. As long as you have this set up on your pc, you will not be able to receive our newsletter.

Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) Update

The flipbooks are being distributed by the Regional Directors. Because of the requirements in the Funding Opportunity Announcement, the Program will not be printing anymore. However, Mrs. Hert hopes to distribute the protocols as an electronic document accessible on smart phones, tablets, and e-readers.

Air Ambulance Communications

As of January 1, 2013, the Very High Frequency (VHF) for communications between air ambulances and ground crews will move to 155.3475. This change was made due to the high volume of traffic on the previous frequency. Additionally, the Alabama Forestry Commission has designated an Ultra High Frequency (UHF) 453.750 for those agencies with UHF radios to conduct Air Ambulance communications and landing zone coordination.

VHF Radio Update

The OEMS and Center for Emergency Preparedness have collaborated in the upgrade of the **Hospital Emergency Administrative Radio (HEAR)** system in all medical direction facilities. Listed below are the access tones for use during emergency situations when other communications systems fail. **The following information should be programmed for hospitals located in your area:**

LICENSEE	COUNTY	CH. GUARD	CALL SIGN
SPRINGHILL MEMORIAL HOSPITAL	MOBILE	210.7	WQOL212
UNIV OF SO AL MEDICAL CENTER	MOBILE	146.2	WQOV201
PROVIDENCE HOSPITAL	MOBILE	131.8	WQOV201
JACKSON MEDICAL CENTER	CLARKE	110.9	WQOL212
MONROE COUNTY HOSPITAL	MONROE	100.0	WQOV201
EVERGREEN MEDICAL CENTER	CONECUH	167.9	WQOK961
D.W. McMILLAN MEMORIAL	ESCAMBIA	127.3	WQOU652
ANDALUSIA HOSPITAL	COVINGTON	91.5	WQOV201
ELBA GENERAL HOSPITAL	COFFEE	82.5	WQOL212
MEDICAL CENTER ENTERPRISE	COFFEE	100.0	WQPY557
FLOWERS HOSPITAL	HOUSTON	151.4	WQOL212
SOUTHEAST ALABAMA MEDICAL CENTER	HOUSTON	103.5	WQOV201
DALE MEDICAL CENTER	DALE	71.9	WQOL214
ATTENTUS TROY LLC DBA TROY REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER	PIKE	218.1	WQOL221
EAST ALABAMA MEDICAL CENTER	LEE	123.0	WQOL214
RUSSELL HOSPITAL	TALLAPOOSA	118.8	WQPY557
CLAY COUNTY HOSPITAL	CLAY	146.2	WQPZ543
COOSA VALLEY BAPTIST MEDICAL CENTER	TALLADEGA	82.5	WQPY557
CITIZENS BAPTIST MEDICAL CENTER	TALLADEGA	192.8	WQOK958
STRINGFELLOW MEMORIAL HOSPITAL	CALHOUN	206.5	WQOK958
ST VINCENTS ST CLAIR HOSPITAL (PELL CITY)	ST CLAIR	141.3	WQOL250
CHEROKEE MEDICAL CENTER	CHEROKEE	82.5	WQPZ543
GADSDEN REGIONAL HOSPITAL	ETOWAH	114.8	WQOV200
RIVERVIEW REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER	ETOWAH	85.4	WQOK958
DEKALB REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER	DEKALB	136.5	WQOK958
HIGHLANDS MEDICAL CENTER (JACKSON CO. HEALTHCARE AUTH.)	JACKSON	179.9	WQPZ543
PARKWAY MEDICAL CENTER HOSPITAL	MORGAN	146.2	WQOU652
CULLMAN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER	CULLMAN	179.9	WQOV200
ATHENS LIMESTONE HOSPITAL	LIMESTONE	127.3	WQOU652
DECATUR GENERAL HOSPITAL	MORGAN	123.0	WQOU652

LAWRENCE MEDICAL CENTER	LAWRENCE	94.8	WQOK944
HELEN KELLER MEMORIAL HOSPITAL	COLBERT	162.2	WQOK944
RUSSELLVILLE HOSPITAL, LLC	FRANKLIN	210.7	WQOY827
LAKELAND COMMUNITY HOSPITAL	WINSTON	218.1	WQPG686
FAYETTE MEDICAL CENTER	FAYETTE	82.5	WQPY557
VAUGHN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER	DALLAS	127.3	WQOK944
TOMBIGBEE EMS	MARENGO	82.5	WQPG686
RUSH FOUNDATION HOSPITAL	LAUDERDALE,MS	NONE	WPTC846
NORTHWEST MEDICAL CENTER	MARION	151.4	WNAL326
SHELBY BAPTIST MEDICAL CENTER	SHELBY	103.5	WQOK944
MEDICAL WEST (UAB WEST)	JEFFERSON	136.5	WQOL250
UAB HIGHLANDS	JEFFERSON	225.7	WQOL250
UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA HOSPITAL	JEFFERSON	186.2	WQO7827
ST VINCENTS EAST (BIRMINGHAM)	JEFFERSON	218.1	WQPG686
BROOKWOOD MEDICAL CENTER	JEFFERSON	179.9	WQOL250
BAPTIST MEDICAL CENTER - PRINCETON	JEFFERSON	131.8	WQOL250
TRINITY MEDICAL CENTER	JEFFERSON	173.8	WQOL221
ST. VINCENTS BIRMINGHAM	JEFFERSON	162.2	WQPY557
DCH REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER	TUSCALOOSA	210.7	WQOK944
NMMC - HAMILTON	MARION	141.3	WQPZ543
JONES, TEDDY DBA WALKER BAPTIST MEDICAL CENTER	WALKER	110.9	WQOY827
ELIZA COFFEE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL	LAUDERDALE	100.0	WQPG686
MEDICAL CENTER BLOUNT (ST. VINCENTS BLOUNT)	BLOUNT	186.2	WQOK958
CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OF ALABAMA	JEFFERSON	141.3	WQOL374
CHILTON MEDICAL CENTER	CHILTON	141.3	WQOL250
CRENSHAW COMMUNITY HOSPITAL	CRENSHAW	123.0	WQOL221
EUFAULA HOSPITAL CORP DBA LAKEVIEW COMM. HOSP.	BARBOUR	173.8	WQOL221
PRATTVILLE BAPTIST HOSPITAL	AUTAUGA	100.0	WQOK961
JACKSON HOSPITAL & CLINIC INC	MONTGOMERY	77.0	WQOK961
BAPTIST MEDICAL CENTER (SOUTH)	MONTGOMERY	94.8	WQOK961
COLUMBIA EAST MONTGOMERY MEDICAL CENTER (BAPTIST EAST)	MONTGOMERY	103.5	WQOL221
L.V. STABLER HOSPITAL	BUTLER	203.5	WQOY827
SOUTH BALDWIN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER	BALDWIN	77.0	WQOL212
SHOALS HOSPITAL	COLBERT	82.5	WQPZ543
CHOCTAW COUNTY HOSPITAL (BUTLER, AL)	CHOCTAW	107.2	WQPZ543
JOHN PAUL JONES (CAMDEN)	WILCOX	167.9	WQOK959
THOMAS HOSPITAL (FAIRHOPE)	BALDWIN	107.2	WQOK959

COMMSERV DID NOT GO TO THE HOSPITALS BELOW				
HUNTSVILLE HOSPITAL (UAB SCHOOL OF MEDICINE)	MADISON	127.3	WQOU652	NOT CONFIRMED
HUNTSVILLE HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN & CHILDREN	MADISON	67.0	?	
CRESTWOOD HEALTHCARE, LP	MADISON	225.7	WQOU652	NOT CONFIRMED
MARSHALL MEDICAL CENTER SOUTH	MARSHALL	203.5	WQOV200	NOT CONFIRMED
MARSHALL MEDICAL CENTER NORTH	MARSHALL	107.2	WQOV200	NOT CONFIRMED
MADISON HOSPITAL	MADISON	71.9	?	

Upcoming Events

4th Annual Greater Gulf Coast Trauma and Acute Care Surgery Symposium

March 14-15, 2013

Space 301, Centre for Living Arts

Mobile, Alabama

6th Annual William A.L. Mitchell Endowed Lectureship

March 14, 2013 at 6:30 p.m.

Space 301, Centre for Living Arts

Mobile, Alabama



Guest Lecturer:

Demetrios Demetriades, MD, PhD, FACS

Professor and Vice Chairman of Surgery

Director of Trauma/SICU

Keck Medical Center

University of Southern California School of Medicine

For further information please contact: sbutt@usouthal.edu

Protecting our Children: Recognizing Child Abuse

Satellite Conference and Live Webcast

Tuesday, January 15, 2013 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Faculty:

Ann Klasner, MD, MPH, Professor of Pediatrics

University of Alabama at Birmingham

Alabama EMSC Medical Director

Sandra Nasca, CMI-V, Deputy Coroner

Forensic Medical Investigator, Pike County, Alabama

Alabama EMSC Family Advocacy Network Representative

For conference information please call (334) 206-5618 or email alphtn@adph.state.al.us

Keeping Kids Safe During the Holidays

Below are a few tips that can help to make this holiday season enjoyable and safe for children.

Christmas Trees

- Ensure that artificial trees are labeled as fire resistant prior to purchase.
- When purchasing live trees make sure that they are fresh. Trees that are dry are a fire hazard in the home.
- Keep tree stands filled with water to prevent rapid drying out. Again, a dry tree is a fire hazard.
- Place trees away from fireplaces, portable heaters or radiators.

Lights

- Inspect lights for loose connections, broken sockets or frayed wiring before use.
- Do not use electric lighting on metal trees.
- If using lights outdoors ensure that they are certified for outdoor use.
- Turn off all lights before going to bed or leaving the house. Lights can short out and cause a fire.

Toys

- Keep wrapping paper, bags, gifts and bows out of the reach of small children. They can pose a choking or suffocation hazard.
- Ingestion of button batteries or magnets can be life threatening to young children. These can be found in toys, greetings cards and small electronics.
- Children can choke or suffocate on uninflated or broken latex balloons. Do not allow children under the age of eight to play with them.
- Remove strings and ribbons from toys before giving them to young children. They can act as a strangulation hazard.
- Only allow children to play with developmentally appropriate toys. Toys designed for older children are a potential hazard to small kids.

With a little forethought we can ensure that 2012 is a safe holiday season for all!

Courtesy of Nicole Jones, M.D.
Pediatric Emergency Medicine Attending
Children's of Alabama

