

February 16, 2004

MEMORANDUM

TO: All EMS Providers
All EMS Education Programs

FROM: Chris Rosko, M.D., State Medical Director
Office of EMS and Trauma

Jimmy D. Prince, Director
Office of EMS and Trauma

SUBJECT: EMS Rule Variance

The State Health Officer has issued an EMS rule variance to allow the EMS Division to implement several changes that impact credentialing and re-licensing of EMTs and Paramedics in the State of Alabama. The changes are effective April 1, 2004. Please disseminate to all licensed EMS personnel.

Credentialing: (referencing only protocols/algorithms education)

- EMS protocol education will continue as in the past except that all completion rosters will be forwarded directly to the EMS Division. Completion rosters must be typed and list the individual's name, SS# and EMT license number.
- All protocol educators (coordinators) must be designated by the provider/service director and medical director. This documentation must accompany all completion rosters to the EMS Division.
- All protocol education must be completed and effective prior to expiration of an EMT-Intermediate's or Paramedic's license. The education will remain effective for two years from that date.
- All Statewide EMS protocol education and scenario evaluations must be completed and documented for each EMT. The signatures of the protocol educator (coordinator) and medical director are required to attest to successful completion and evaluation of all individual(s) on the completion roster.
- Unsuccessful completion of the State EMS protocol education must be addressed through remedial requirements determined by the provider's medical director. Any further remedial requirements must be determined by the Regional EMS Medical Director.

Refresher Courses:

- The EMS Division will not approve any individual refresher courses, provide any refresher manuals, or print any refresher certificates after March 31, 2004. The EMS Division will require the minimum DOT standards for those choosing to instruct or attend a refresher course.
- A refresher course may be instructed by any State licensed individual up to the level he or she is licensed.

- All refresher courses must utilize the instructional objectives as outlined for each level of EMT. The Alabama required courses are: the 1996 EMT Basic Refresher Course; the 1996 EMT Basic Refresher Course and the Alabama EMT Intermediate Refresher Course, and; the 2001 EMT Paramedic refresher course. These can be found online at <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov>.
- The EMS Division will not mail out copies of this information.
- Each level of EMT must attend his or her own level of refresher course. An EMT Basic or Intermediate cannot receive refresher course completion credit by attending a Paramedic refresher.
- Each refresher course instructor must abide by all instructional standards as contained in each course. Violations may result in license revocation.
- The instructor's responsibilities include providing a typed completion certificate to each individual who successfully completes the course. The certificate must contain the following:

- 1) Date completed;
- 2) Instructor's full name;
- 3) Title of the course;
- 4) Individual's full name;
- 5) Individual's SS#;
- 6) Individual's EMT license number; and
- 7) The appropriate course specific completion language. The certificate must be signed by the instructor and sponsoring medical director.

Emergency Vehicle Operators Course (EVOC)

- The EMS Division will require completion of the minimum D.O.T. standards for those choosing to instruct or attend an EVOC course.
- All EVOC courses must utilize the current instructional objectives as outlined by the National Highway Traffic Safety standards found in the EVOC Instructor's Guide. This course and the participant's manual can be found online at <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/people/injury/ems/> under national Standard Curricula.
- The EMS Division will maintain an ongoing list of approved EVOC participant or EVOC instructor courses that meet these requirements. The list will be posted at www.adph.org/ems.
- An EVOC course may only be instructed by a successful graduate instructor of the EVOC course.
- Each EVOC instructor must post all intended courses through the EMS Division prior to the course offering.
- Each EVOC course instructor must abide by all instructional standards as contained in each course. Violations may result in license revocation.
- The instructor's responsibilities include providing a typed completion certificate to each individual who successfully completes the course. The certificate must contain the following:

- 1) Date completed;
- 2) Instructor's full name;
- 3) Title of the course- refresher or full course;

- 4) Individual's full name;
- 5) Individual's EMT license number; and
- 6) The appropriate course specific completion language. The certificate must be signed by the instructor.

Other Approved Credentialing Courses:

Any course developed and recognized to meet national standard guidelines containing the skills and knowledge of advanced cardiac life support (ACLS). The individual must have been examined and performed competently in the management of each of the following conditions:

- Respiratory arrest
- Witnessed VF with an AED
- Shock-resistant VF/pulseless VT
- Asystole
- Pulseless electrical activity (PEA)
- Acute coronary syndromes
- Bradycardias, Unstable tachycardias
- Stable tachycardias
- Acute stroke.

Each individual must be examined one-on-one and perform competently as a team leader for a simulated cardiac arrest. As a team leader, the individual must physically demonstrate the delivery of all electrical interventions and simulation must include V-fib/Pulseless VT and at least 2 other arrhythmias. The individual completing the course must have taken a reasonably secure, closed book, written examination of an appropriate length for the content domain. The exam must have a reasonable valid pass/fail score. The records, including skill sheets, must be retained by the individual or agency verifying competency for a period of 3 years

Any course developed and recognized to meet national standard guidelines containing the skills and knowledge of basic cardiac life support (BCLS). The individual must have been examined and physically performed competently in each of the following skills:

- Adult 1 and 2 Rescuer CPR
- Adult Obstructed Airway
- Child 1 and 2 Rescuer CPR
- Child Obstructed Airway
- Infant CPR
- Infant Obstructed Airway
- AED training

The individual completing the course must have taken a reasonably secure, closed book, written examination of an appropriate length for the content domain. The exam must have a reasonable valid pass/fail score. The records, including skill sheets, must be retained by the individual or agency verifying competency for a period of 3 years.

The EMS Division will maintain an ongoing list of approved courses that meet these requirements. The list will be posted at www.adph.org/ems.

Please call Gary Mackey, EMS Division at (334) 206-5383 if you have any questions. Credentialing coordinator forms, final rosters, etc, may be faxed to (334) 206-0364 or emailed to gary.mackey@adph.state.al.us.