



Update from the Office of EMS Volume XVII, Issue IV

As I reflect back on 2016, I think we have made progress in EMS in this state. We started utilizing our updated treatment protocols and I think they are headed in the right direction as far as being more progressive is concerned. We are certainly not where I want us to be but little by little we will become more progressive. The roll out of the stroke system is coming along nicely and we should have it up and running in the next month or two. I think the stroke system is something that will certainly make an impact in the health care of Alabamians. Preliminary data is showing a thrombolytic rate for ischemic strokes in excess of twenty percent with the national average less than ten percent. This early success of the stroke system is due to teamwork and I certainly appreciate the buy in and dedication of all the EMSP's. Once the stroke system is fully functioning, we will turn our attention to standing up a STEMI system statewide. I think the STEMI system will also be something that will make a huge difference in the health care of Alabamians. Another area in which we have made progress is including paramedics on the SEMCC. I think this was the right thing to do and so far has worked well. I look forward to continuing to look at the paramedic's perspective as we deal with issues at the SEMCC level. We just updated our EMS rules and they were approved by the SEMCC in early December and they are slated to go to the State Committee of Public Health for approval in January. As you can see from this, we have been working hard to continue to bring EMS along and we could not have done this without all of the players including the EMSP, educators, physicians, OEMS personnel, ADPH administration and all other stakeholders.

As stated above, we have been fortunate to be blessed with dedicated team members who truly want to make EMS in Alabama the best in the country. I know that I do not usually take the time to thank our office personnel but I could not do my job without everyone of them doing their job. I truly appreciate their dedication and untiring work. I think the regional staff also deserve recognition as they certainly play an important part in getting our programs out and making sure they are running as we want them to. We have had tremendous support from our new State Health Officer, Dr. Tom Miller. We have also had a huge amount of support from our immediate superior, Dr. Tom Geary. Dr. Geary is one of the Assistant State Health Officers and he has been a pleasure to work with and has really been supportive of our mission in EMS.

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I will close with my sincere wish that 2017 will be a blessing to you and your families. I appreciate your hard work and I offer my gratitude to the EMSP for allowing me to serve as your State EMS Medical Director.

William E. Crawford, M.D.,FACEP
State EMS Medical Director
Alabama Dept. of Public Health
Office of EMS

Update from Alabama EMS for Children Program

The EMSC program will begin assessments again in September, 2017. There are new performance measures and I wanted to update you on the changes. All of this information will be sent out again as we get closer to the assessment process. We will also be contacting each service to determine the proper individual who can respond to the assessments. The new performance measures and data collection process are below:

Performance Measure #01-The degree to which EMS agencies submit NEMSIS compliant version 3.x data to the State EMS Office for submission to NEMSIS Technical Assistance Center. By 2018, we will have collected baseline data to assess the number of agencies that are compliant with this measure. By 2021, the goal is that 90% of services will be NEMSIS 3.x compliant.

Performance Measure #02-The percentage of EMS agencies in the state/territory that have a designated individual who coordinated pediatric emergency care. By 2020, 30% of EMS agencies will have a designated individual; by 2023, that rate will be 60%; and by 2026, we hope to reach a goal of 90% compliance with this measure. Recommended role: Job related activities that the designated individual who coordinates pediatric emergency care might oversee at an EMS agency are: ensure that the pediatric perspective is included in the development of EMS protocols; ensure that fellow EMS providers follow pediatric clinical practice guidelines; promote pediatric continuing education opportunities; oversee pediatric process improvement; ensure the availability of pediatric medications, equipment, and supplies; promote agency participation in pediatric prevention programs; promote agency participation in pediatric research efforts; liases with the emergency department pediatric emergency care coordinator.

Performance Measure #03- The percentage of EMS agencies in the state/territory that have a process that requires EMS providers to physically demonstrate the correct use of pediatric specific equipment. By 2020, 30% of agencies will have a process in places that requires EMSPs to demonstrate the correct use of pediatric equipment with a score of at least 8 on a 12-point scale. By 2023, we will have a 60% response rate and a 90% response rate by 2026.





Update from Alabama EMS for Children Program

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There will be a great deal of additional information sent out in the coming months. I wanted to introduce the changes to our personnel so we can get questions answered and compile proper contact information to guarantee success with the EMSC reassessment.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with questions. If I can't answer the question, I will find someone who can. I can also send specific details about the new performance measures should you wish to review them.

Katherine Dixon Hert
EMS for Children Project Director
Alabama Department of Public Health
Office of EMS

Continuing Medical Education Courses

As of January 1, 2016, there are three ways to obtain approval for continuing medical education for EMSP in the state of Alabama

- State of Alabama approved (through the Regional Office)
- Nationally recognized course (ACLS, PALS, etc.)
- CAPCE approved

If you plan to teach any continuing medical education in Alabama you must complete the course approval process. This should be accomplished through your EMS Regional office. You must obtain an application to be completed and returned to the Regional office for approval.

If your course is approved, you will be issued a state approval number. This number must be printed on the certificate. If you submit a certificate without an appropriate approval number, the National Registry will reject your continuing medical education.





Alabama e-PCR Submission Requirements

Some e-PCR Points of Clarification:

1. It is a requirement to complete a patient care report on every emergency medical response. This office is already monitoring submission rates and comparative data suggests that many agencies are not reporting all runs as required. Please submit all required runs to avoid noncompliance.
2. Each record must be submitted electronically within 168 hours or less. The goal is to eventually narrow that down to within 24 hours. The 24 hour reporting allows Public Health to monitor surveillance trends as required by the Federal emergency preparedness guidelines.
3. Our IT staff is always available to assist you with your e-PCR needs. If you need assistance, you may call Chris or Lori at 334-206- 5383. You may get a voice recording depending on the call volume. They will eventually get back to you. If you do not hear from the within a reasonable time, you may wish to [email](#) them.
4. Collecting and importing data is paramount only to reporting reliable data. Reliable data is accurate and contains no errors. When one looks for shortcuts and/or skips data entry in areas that has been discovered to have no validation rules, it dilutes the integrity of the data, not to mention falsifies a legal document. Please make sure you enter data accurately.
5. As of January 1, 2017, Alabama will begin the transition to and start accepting NEMESIS version 3.4 data. We will also continue to accept NEMESIS version 2.0 data until December 31, 2017.

Licensure and Education Information

Please remember the requirements as stated in the EMS Rules document under **420-2-1-.11 Licensed Provider Service Staffing** License Provider Services shall not allow EMSP to respond to a medical emergency with the intent to treat or transport a patient unless the EMSP are clean and appropriately dressed and wearing photo identification with the level of license, license number, and name of EMSP visible. The photo identification shall be displayed at all times unless extenuating circumstances prevent the photo identification from being available.

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, or be a previously licensed EMSP. All EMSPs who drive an ambulance must maintain an initial approved EVOC course and a refresher every two (2) years. Alabama EVOC is still a requirement; you **MUST** have a current EVOC certificate in your personnel file.

Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) Course

The following are approved EMR Courses:

- EMS approved courses offered through your regional office, or
- A course approved by the Alabama Fire College which includes the Emergency Care Provider Course.





General Information

Do You Have Questions for OEMS Staff?

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

Complaints, Investigations, and Inspections —Call Jamie Gray

Provider Service Licenses—Call Vickie Turner or Kembley Thomas

Individual Licenses—Call Vickie Turner or Stephanie Smith

Individual Training or Testing—Call Stephen Wilson

EMS for Children, Website, and Social Media—Call Katherine Dixon Hert

Requests for Information from Regional Offices

The Office of 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 on the Newsletter page which is linked to the home page. All Alabama licensed EMSPs who have a **VALID** email address will receive notice when the newsletter has been published. Our licensure database is used to store your last submitted valid email address, but cannot accommodate unlicensed people. They will have to visit our website to view or download the newsletter.

If you are not getting our newsletter announcements via email, it is because your email address was illegible or in an incorrect format or you have changed it and not updated your information with our office. You can email any changes via emsinquiry@adph.state.al.us or call office staff at (334) 206-5383.

Compliance Issues

Name	Rule/Protocol	Complaint	Action Taken
Megan Ball EMSP-EMT 1600378	420-2-1-.09	Guilty of Misconduct	Surrender
Michael Bolton EMSP-Paramedic 1300445	420-2-1-.09 420-2-1-.30	Guilty of Misconduct	Suspension
Lindsey M. McKeown EMSP-EMT 1100508	420-2-1-.09 420-2-1-.30	Guilty of Misconduct	Suspension
EMSP-EMT	420-2-1-.29	Impairment	Suspension
EMSP-Advanced	420-2-1-.29	Impairment	Suspension
EMSP-Paramedic	420-2-1-.29	Impairment	Surrender
EMSP-Paramedic	420-2-1-.29	Impairment	Suspension
EMSP-Paramedic	420-2-1-.29	Impairment	Suspension
EMSP-Paramedic	420-2-1-.29	Impairment	Suspension
EMSP-Paramedic	420-2-1-.29	Impairment	Suspension
EMSP-Paramedic	420-2-1-.29	Impairment	Suspension
EMSP-Paramedic	420-2-1-.29	Impairment	Suspension
EMSP-Paramedic	420-2-1-.29	Impairment	Suspension

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Compliance Issues continued			
Name	Rule/Protocol	Complaint	Action Taken
EMSP-Paramedic	420-2-1-.29	Impairment	Suspension
EMSP-Paramedic	420-2-1-.29	Impairment	Suspension
Provider Service	420-2-1-.09 420-2-1-.28 420-2-1-.30	Patient Care Issues	No Violation Found
Provider Service	420-2-1-.09 420-2-1-.28	Patient Care Issues	No Violation Found

Provider Service Inspections

The inspection reports for the following services can be found on Compliance Issues page of the Office of EMS [webpage](#). These inspections were completed July-December, 2016.

Alabaster Fire Department	Care Ambulance-Autauga County
AMED Ambulance Service	Care Ambulance-Chilton County
AmServ EMS	Care Ambulance-Lee County
AMSTAR-Clarke County	Care Ambulance-Montgomery County
AMSTAR-EMS	Care Ambulance-Russell County
AMSTAR-Marengo County	Chelsea Fire and Rescue
AMSTAR-Washington County	Clanton Fire Department
Arjenna Parabolic Transport	Conecuh County EMS
ASAP-Monroe County	D.W. McMillan EMS
Atmore Ambulance	
Baptist Lifeflight 3-Butler County	
Bessemer Fire Department	
Cahaba Valley Fire Department	
Calera Fire Department	

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Provider Service Inspections

Eclectic Fire Department

Escambia County EMS

GEMS Ambulance

Green Pond Fire and Rescue

Greenville Fire Department

Harpersville Fire Department

Haynes Ambulance-Autauga
County

Haynes Ambulance-Elmore
County

Helena Fire Department

HEMSI

Hoover Fire Department

International Paper

Irondale Fire Department

Jemison Fire Department

Lifecare-Jefferson County

Livingston Fire & Rescue

McAdory Fire Department

Millbrook Fire Department

Montevallo Fire and Rescue

North Baldwin EMS

North Shelby Fire

Northstar-Tuscaloosa

Opelika Fire & Rescue

Pelham Fire Department

Shoals Ambulance

Simmons EMS

Southeast Shelby County
Rescue

Tarrant Fire and Rescue

Troy Fire Department

Westover Fire Department

Culture of Excellence

Arjenna Parabasic Transport

Baptist Lifeflight 3

Bessemer Fire Department

Cahaba Valley Fire Department

Calera Fire Department

Care Ambulance-Autauga County

Care Ambulance-Lee County

D.W. McMillan EMS

Eclectic Fire Department

Escambia County EMS

Greenville Fire Department

Haynes Lifeflight 1

HEMSI

Jemison Fire Department

McAdory Fire Department

Montevallo Fire and Rescue Service

Troy Fire Department

