



Emergency Medical Services and Trauma

the Office of EMS and Trauma

Director's Words

Identifying the correct Alabama Trauma Communication Center (ATCC) number on the prehospital run sheet is a crucial step for Alabama Trauma Centers' compliance with the Trauma Registry requirements. Currently, the ATCC number is the only linkage available to associate trauma prehospital patient information to the trauma patient information received from the communication center. We have received numerous calls from our trauma centers because they are unable to locate the ATCC number on the run sheets.

To eliminate this problem, please have your EMS personnel write the ATCC number in the upper right corner of the run sheet, from this point forward, for clarity.

Thank you for your assistance in addressing this issue.

EMS Individual Licensure Update

THE OFFICE OF EMS & TRAUMA NEEDS YOUR HEAD SHOT!

All licenses processed in the future will contain all of these features: a head shot, color coding based on your level, and a bar code. Each service is responsible for providing a head shot of each of their licensed employees.

If you are not employed by a service in Alabama, here are the options you have for providing your EMS license Renewal head shot:

- Provide a passport picture with your name and license number on the back.
- Have a picture taken at a Regional EMS agency, the state EMS office, or a licensed provider service.
- Photos should be taken in business casual attire or EMS uniform. Shirts must have a collar; no T-shirts.

Licensed provider services will be responsible for their employees' pictures.

Please be aware that your license application will not be processed if we do not have your head shot on file.

National Registry Amnesty is coming! Keep watching the Newsletter for the process to regain your National Registry Authorization **without** having to retake the exam.

RENEW YOUR EMS LICENSE

You will be receiving notification of license renewal if you are set to expire March 31, 2011. You must not practice after the expiration date without a renewed license in your hand. To ensure adequate processing time, it is in your best interest to send in your application with copies of all certificates and cards immediately after January 1, 2011.

It is your individual responsibility to ensure that your license is renewed on time. You may obtain an individual license application from our website (www.adph.org/ems). When you reach the home page, click on Licensure and then select EMT License Renewal Requirements. On this page, you will find a list of the documents required to renew your EMS license. Go back to the Licensure page and click on EMS Individual Licensure Application. The online renewal option will be available again this year for an additional \$2.00 fee. Online renewal is only available January 1 through March 31, 2011.

All Active EMTs must provide proof of Protocol Education for license renewal.

Please provide a passport picture with your name and license number on the back of the picture. Also, pictures may be taken at a Regional EMS agency, the state EMS office, or a licensed provider service. Photo should be taken in business casual attire or EMS uniform. Shirts must have a collar; no T-shirts. Licensed provider services will be responsible for their employees' pictures.

If you do not have access to the internet and cannot print and application, please call (334) 206-5383 and we will fax or mail you an application. PLEASE CALL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!

Notice to Ambulance Drivers

As of January 1, 2011, the Office of EMS and Trauma will no longer license ambulance drivers. It will be up to your service and their insurance company whether or not you are eligible to be an ambulance driver as long as you maintain your EVOC certification and have a current CPR card.

State EMS Medical Director's Report

The Trauma System is operational in all regions except the Southeast Region (Region 5) and we are continuing to wait on trauma center applications from the hospitals in Montgomery and Dothan. In November, Lakeland Community Hospital in Haleyville was added to the BREMSS region as a Level III hospital. Two hospitals in Pensacola, Florida (Baptist Hospital and Sacred Heart Hospital) have joined the Alabama Trauma System as Level I hospitals.

There continues to be sporadic reports of shortages of prefilled medications for prehospital use. Some services have been unable to get the 2 mg or the 4 mg prefilled syringes of Morphine. Also there have been reports of shortages of lasix. The shortage of 50% Dextrose seems to have resolved. If anyone cannot get Morphine, we can give a temporary variance to use Dilaudid in its place. If anyone cannot get lasix, we can give a temporary variance to use Bumetanide (Bumex) in its place (though Bumex is in short supply as well).

Anyone needing a variance will need to contact Dr. John Campbell by email (john.campbell@adph.state.al.us) or by phone (334) 206-5383.

Reminder

The Office of EMS & Trauma would like to request that you comply with the requests 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.

Do You Have Questions for OEMS&T 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, Contracts, Equipment Orders – Call Katherine Hert

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 EMS personnel 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.

Brunswick Woodmere Lanes Wants to Thank Montgomery and River Region EMS Providers

Brunswick Woodmere Lanes is very excited to have the opportunity to thank our Emergency Medical Service providers in Montgomery and the River Region area. Emergency Medical Technicians and all first responders save lives every day and Brunswick Woodmere Lanes would like to say a big, “Thank You!” Your discounted rate of 10% off bowling (*excluding: food, beverages, Pro Shop and Arcade) will begin this holiday season and continue throughout the entire year. We will also have future events specifically for our EMT, Fire Department, Police Department Sheriff Department and Military. You will be required to provide appropriate identification in order to receive the discounted rate. Check the Office of EMS and Trauma website often for future events and discounts available at Brunswick Woodmere Lanes.

**FCC's PUBLIC SAFETY AND HOMELAND SECURITY BUREAU
LAUNCHES NEW WEBPAGE DEDICATED TO NARROWBANDING
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS –
www.fcc.gov/narrowbanding**

The Commission is Committed to Helping UHF/VHF Licensees Migrate to Narrower Bandwidth Communications by the January 1, 2013 Compliance Deadline

Washington, D.C. – With the January 1, 2013 narrowbanding compliance deadline approaching for VHF/UHF public safety and commercial licensees in the 150-174 MHz and 421-512 MHz bands, the Federal Communications Commission's Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau (Bureau) today launched a new webpage dedicated to providing information and assistance to licensees migrating their land mobile radio systems from 25 kHz to 12.5 kHz or narrower channel bandwidth.

Migration of these systems to narrowband operation will ultimately help reduce spectrum congestion, improve communications, and increase access to the spectrum for users of the 150-174 MHz and 421-512 MHz bands.

James Arden Barnett, Jr., Rear Admiral (Ret.), Chief of the Bureau said, "The FCC's commitment to helping public safety make the migration to narrowband communications by the January 2013 compliance deadline remains strong. We are at a critical juncture in this process, especially with the deadline approaching, state and local governments tightening budgets, and public safety officials working hard to explain their fiscal and technical needs to lawmakers. We will continue to work with the public safety community in the next two years to meet these challenges."

The Bureau is committed to ensuring that public safety officials have the most current and up-to-date information to make the transition. The new webpage will supplement the Bureau's ongoing outreach and educational efforts to increase the awareness of state and local public safety officials, lawmakers and policymakers of the benefits of narrowbanding and the importance of meeting the 2013 narrowbanding deadline.

The webpage, www.fcc.gov/narrowbanding, includes the following information:

- o Narrowbanding benefits for public safety users;
- o Frequently Asked Questions – answering technical and policy-related questions;
- o Links to information and resources regarding grant programs;
- o FCC Bureau-level contacts for those seeking additional information and assistance;
- o FCC News Releases on narrowbanding proceedings and initiatives;
- o A list of public safety frequency coordinators; and
- o Access to the FCC's licensing database.

The Bureau has also established a new e-mail box, narrowbanding@fcc.gov, for licensees and other interested parties to submit narrowbanding-related questions.

For additional information about the 2013 narrowbanding compliance deadline, please contact Roberto Mussenden, Policy Division, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, at 202-418-1428 or via email: roberto.mussenden@fcc.gov

-FCC-

For more news and information about the Federal Communications Commission please visit:
www.fcc.gov

Provider Service News

Services in Region 2 (East), Region 5 (Southeast), and Region 6 (Gulf) should remember their provider license expires December 31, 2010. The on-line option for provider license renewal was turned on October 1, 2010 and the link is available on the OEMS&T website. If a service chooses to complete the paper application, the application can be completed and then downloaded from the OEMS&T website. Be sure to use the application provided on our website because any previous editions of the provider license application will not be accepted.

Everyone needs to make sure they are completing their periodic fluid and medication check-offs. Inspectors continue to find too many expired items. Remember, EMS rules require that the “provider shall examine all items no less frequently than once each month and shall remove deteriorated items and items with expiration dates that have been reached.”

The Office of EMS and Trauma staff really enjoyed meeting and talking with numerous members of the EMS community at the Culture of Excellence Conference. It is such a treat to put a name with a face, and we look forward to more such opportunities. Remember, do not hesitate to give us a call or send an email if we can be of any assistance.

- Atmore Ambulance
- Collins Chapel Fire & Rescue
- D.W. McMillan Memorial
Hospital Ambulance Service
- Directorate Public Safety Fire &
EMS
- Fort Rucker EMS
- Jefferson County Sheriff's Office
Tactical Team
- Jemison Rescue 4
- Midfield Fire Department
- Montgomery Fire Department
- Mud Tavern Volunteer Fire
Rescue
- Samaritan EMS
- U.S. Steel

Continuing Education Opportunity on the Gulf of Mexico Five Day Western Caribbean Cruise April 9 - 14, 2011

You and your family and friends are invited to attend the Alabama Gulf EMS System (AGEMSS) Educational Conference on board the Carnival's Fun Ship "Elation"! AGEMSS has joined with Springdale Travel to offer this unique experience for individuals to acquire continuing education credit hours and experience a cruise with family and friends. **There is no charge for the conference...just for the cruise.** The cruise will be leaving the port of Mobile on Saturday, April 9 at 4 p.m. and returning on Thursday, April 14 at 8 a.m.

The role of AGEMSS is to provide the continuing education classes; therefore we will serve as your "daytime edutainment" while on board the Elation. Please understand that AGEMSS will not receive any compensation from Springdale Travel or Carnival Cruise Lines for this conference.

Dr. John Campbell will serve as our Medical Director and will be presenting lectures, as well as other invited speakers. The agenda will be available on our website: www.agemss.com. The conference will be held on Sunday (6 hours) and Wednesday (6 hours) with two hours CEU on Saturday afternoon / evening for a total of 14 hours. EMS personnel can receive up to 14 hours from AGEMSS and nurses can receive up to 14 hours from the Southeast Alabama EMS System.

The base price for guest one and two are: interior room \$478.90; oceanview \$518.90. Third and fourth guests are \$328.00 (per person). **All room prices include gratuities and \$100.00 on board credit per cabin.**

To learn more about the continuing educational conference, the cruise, and how to register for both, visit the website: www.springdaletravel.com/alems. Jennifer Fagan with Springdale Travel (251-414-4601, jennifer@springdaletravel.com) is available to answer any questions and guide you through the registration process.

You can book now and make payments! Register early to ensure the special prices!

We hope to see you at this conference!

Sincerely,

David F. Garmon

Executive Director, AGEMSS

251-472-7810



Compliance and Investigations Report

September 1, 2010 – November 30, 2010

NAME	COMPLAINT	RULE/PROTOCOL	ACTION TAKEN
Greg Randolph EMT-Paramedic	ATCC Notification	Protocol 7.6	Remedial Education
Robert Tancredi EMT-Paramedic	Drug Administration & PCR Documentation	Protocol 4.5	Suspension
Leon Embry EMT-Paramedic	ALS Procedures	420-2-1-.14	Suspension
Brad Cox EMT-Paramedic	Impairment	420-2-1-.21	Suspension
Jonathan Earls EMT-Paramedic	Impairment	420-2-1-.21	Suspension
Franklin Blackmon EMT-Paramedic	Falsification of Records	420-2-1-.25	Suspension
Kymerly Edwards EMT-Paramedic	Crimes involving moral turpitude	420-2-1-.25	Surrender
Matthew Wuerdeman EMT-Basic	Exceeding Scope of License	420-2-1-.25	Licensure Action Pending

All complaints filed with the Office of EMS and Trauma, are investigated. However, if no rule or protocol violation is found, the complaint will not be listed in the report.

Ground Vehicle Standards Report

September 1, 2010 – November 30, 2010

NAME	RULE/PROTOCOL	ACTION TAKEN
All Good Fire Department	420-2-1-.10	No Units Grounded
Deficiencies	Reflectors/Flares, Abdominal Pads, Vaseline Pads, Goggles, Face Mask, ET Tubes, Flashlight, Burn Sheets, BVM, O ₂ Mask, Micro/Macro Drip Sets, Fire Extinguisher, CO ₂ Monitoring Equipment, ALS Equipment Issues	
Argo Fire Rescue	420-2-1-.10	No Units Grounded
Deficiencies	BVM	
	Expired Medications: Dopamine, Thiamine	
Baccus Ambulance Service	420-2-1-.10	Units Grounded x 1
Deficiencies	Patient Restraints, Naso Airways, No Smoking Signs, Fire Extinguisher, O ₂ Mask, Mechanical Issues (heating)	
Bessemer Fire Department	420-2-1-.10	No Units Grounded
Deficiencies	Tri-Angular Bandages, Face Mask, O ₂ Mask, Flashlight, Stethoscope, Fire Extinguisher	
	Expired Medications: IV Fluids	
Birmingham Fire Rescue	420-2-1-.10	Units Grounded x 1
Deficiencies	O ₂ Mask, Portable O ₂ , Butterfly Needles, No Smoking Signs, Emergency Lights Not Working, Reflectors/Flares, Biohazard Bags, Vaseline Gauze, Portable Suction with Tip, A/C Issues, IV Pressure Infuser, BVM, Bedpan, Urinal, Patient Restraints, Burn Sheets, Micro/Macro Drip Sets, Long Back Board, 4x4, Soft Bandages, Flashlight, Abdominal Pads, Tri-Angular Bandages, Patient Rain Cover, Fire Extinguisher	
Center Point Fire Rescue	420-2-1-.10	No Units Grounded
Deficiencies	Soft Bandages, O ₂ Mask, Micro/Macro Drip Sets, Butterfly Needles, Tourniquets, IO Needles, CO ₂ Monitoring Equipment, Emesis Container, Loading Lights Out, Bedpan, IV Pressure Infuser, On-Board O ₂	
Cherokee Rescue Squad	420-2-1-.10	Units Grounded x 1
Deficiencies	Naso Airways, O ₂ Mask, Mechanical Issues (oil leak)	
	Expired Medications: Benadryl, Morphine Sulfate	
Concord Fire & Rescue	420-2-1-.10	No Units Grounded
Deficiencies	Load Lights, Short Board, Face Mask, Portable Suction with Tip, O ₂ Mask, Fire Extinguisher, Extra Batteries, Micro/Macro Drip Sets, Butterfly Needles, Reflectors/Flares, IO Needles	

Continued on next page.

County EMS	420-2-1-.10	No Units Grounded
Deficiencies	Sheets and Blankets, Bedpan	
	Expired Medications: Diazepam, Nitroglycerin	
Curry Fire and Rescue	420-2-1-.10	No Units Grounded
Deficiencies	Tri-Angular Bandages, ET Tubes, O ₂ Mask, Micro/Macro Drip Sets, IV Pressure Infuser	
	Expired Medications: Oral Glucose	
Decatur Fire Department	420-2-1-.10	No Units Grounded
Deficiencies	Tri-Angular Bandages, ET Tubes, O ₂ Mask, IV Pressure Infuser, Abdominal Pads, Micro/Macro Drip Sets, A/P BVM, IO Needles, Assorted Splints, Long Board	
	Expired Medications: Epinephrine 1:1000, Glucagon, Diazepam, Albuterol, Oral Glucose	
Decatur EMS	420-2-1-.10	No Units Grounded
Deficiencies	Portable Suction with Tip, O ₂ Mask, Flashlight, Loading Lights Not Working, Micro/Macro Drip Sets, Butterfly Needles, Brake Light, No Smoking Signs, Extra Batteries	
	Expired Medications: Activated Charcoal, Lidocaine, Magnesium Sulfate, Albuterol, Oral Glucose	
	Missing Medications: Dopamine	
Floral EMS	420-2-1-.10	No Units Grounded
Deficiencies	On-Board Oxygen	
	Expired Medications: Oral Glucose	
Gadsden Etowah EMS	420-2-1-.10	Units Grounded x 1
Deficiencies	Portable Suction with Tip, Flashlight, Expired Oral Glucose, Short Board, Stethoscope, Sheets and Blankets, A/C and Heat Issues	
Gap of the Mountain Fire & Rescue	420-2-1-.10	No Units Grounded
Deficiencies	Soft Bandages, Extra Batteries, IV Pressure Infuser, IO Needles, CO ₂ Monitoring Equipment	
	Expired Medications: Aspirin, Oral Glucose	
HEMSI	420-2-1-.10	No Units Grounded
Deficiencies	O ₂ Mask, Trauma Shears, Flashlight, Butterfly Needles, Urinal, Trauma Dressing, Goggles, Micro/Macro Drip Sets, Urinal	
	Expired Medications: Activated Charcoal	
Homewood Fire Department	420-2-1-.10	No Units Grounded
Deficiencies	Abdominal Pads, Extra Batteries, O ₂ Mask, Micro/Macro Drip Sets, Butterfly Needles, Goggles, Nasopharyngeal Airways	

Hoover Fire Department	420-2-1-.10	Unit(s) Grounded x 1
Deficiencies	Portable O ₂ , Biohazard Bags, Burn Sheets, Nasopharyngeal Airways, O ₂ Mask, Micro/Macro Drip Sets, Traction Splints, Trauma Dressing, Abdominal Pads, Vaseline Gauze Pads, Tri-Angular Bandages, Butterfly Needles, IV Pressure Infuser, IO Needles, Extra Batteries, Oral Pharyngeal Airways, BVM, Reflectors/Flares, Bedpan, Urinal, Sharps Container 1 truck grounded due to on-board suction not working and floor in the patient compartment needs to be repaired.	
	Expired Medications: Dopamine, Magnesium Sulfate, IV Fluids	
Irondale Fire Department	420-2-1-.10	No Units Grounded
Deficiencies	ABD Pads, Nasopharyngeal Airways, Micro/Macro Drip Sets	
	Expired Medications: Dopamine, Thiamine	
Lauderdale EMS	420-2-1-.10	No Units Grounded
Deficiencies	Tri-Angular Bandages, Patient Restraints, Burn Sheets, Flashlight Traction Splint, Portable Suction, BVM, O ₂ Mask, Urinal, Shears, CO ₂ Monitoring Equipment, Micro/Macro Drip Sets, Naso Airways	
	Expired Medications: Activated Charcoal, Lidocaine, Sodium Bicarbonate, Thiamine, Benadryl	
Lifecare Ambulance	420-2-1-.10	No Units Grounded
Deficiencies	Biohazard Bags, Bedpan, Urinal, IO Needles, CO ₂ Monitoring Equipment, Micro/Macro Drip Sets, Portable Suction with Tip, O ₂ Mask, Emergency Light not working, Load Light out	
Lifeguard Ambulance	420-2-1-.10	Units Grounded x 1
Deficiencies	Reflectors/Flares, Patient Rain Cover, Flashlight, BP Cuff, Stethoscope, IO Needles, Naso Airways, Oral Airways, CO ₂ Monitoring Equipment, O ₂ Mask, 4x4 Gauze, Latex Gloves, Biohazard Bags, BVM, Needles, Trauma Shears, Emesis, Bed Pan, Urinal, C-Collars, Splints, A/C Issues	
Madison Fire & Rescue	420-2-1-.10	No Units Grounded
Deficiencies	Goggles, O ₂ Mask, Micro/Macro Drip Sets, Biohazard Bags	
	Expired Medications: Atropine	
Margaret Fire Department	420-2-1-.10	No Units Grounded
Deficiencies	Trauma Dressing, Micro/Macro Drip Sets, Fire Extinguisher, Sterile OB Kit	
Maytown Fire & Rescue	420-2-1-.10	No Units Grounded
Deficiencies	O ₂ Mask, Butterfly Needles	
	Expired Medications: Lidocaine, Vasopressin	

Med-Call Ambulance Service	420-2-1-.10	No Units Grounded
Deficiencies	Portable O ₂ , O ₂ Mask, Flashlight, IO Needles, No Smoking Signs	
	Expired Medications: Activated Charcoal, Oral Glucose	
Minor Heights Fire & Rescue	420-2-1-.10	No Units Grounded
Deficiencies	ABD Pads, Tri-Angular Bandages, O ₂ Mask, Butterfly Needles, IO Needles, Goggles, Burn Sheets, Portable Suction Unit, Syringes, CIDs	
	Expired Medications: Vasopressin	
NorthStar Paramedic Service	420-2-1-.10	No Units Grounded
Deficiencies	VHF/UHF Radios, Flashlight, IV Pressure Infuser, Butterfly Needles, Reflectors/Flares, Assorted Splints, Long Back Boards, Portable Suction with Tip, No Smoking Signs, Abdominal Pads, Vaseline Gauze, Sheets/Blankets, Shears, Bedpan, O ₂ Mask, Emesis Container	
	Expired Medications: Oral Glucose	
Rocky Ridge Fire Department	420-2-1-.10	No Units Grounded
Deficiencies	Emergency Lights, Loading Lights, Reflectors/Flares, O ₂ Mask	
RPS Walker	420-2-1-.10	Units Grounded x 3
Deficiencies	Portable O ₂ , Portable Suction, O ₂ Mask, Flashlight, CO ₂ Monitoring Equipment, Short Board, BVM, No Smoking Signs, Bed Pan, Urinal, Goggles, VHF/UHF Radio, A/C Issues, Heat Issues, Electrical Issues (turn signals)	
	Missing Medications: Activated Charcoal, Oral Glucose	
Rural Metro Ambulance	420-2-1-.10	Units Grounded x 3
Deficiencies	VHF/UHF Radios, Seat Belts in Rear, No Smoking Signs, Reflectors/Flares, Glucometer, Shears, Flashlight, Emesis Container, Bedpan, IO Needles, CO ₂ Monitoring Equipment, Extra Batteries, Burn Sheets, O ₂ Mask, Loading Lights, Reflectors/Flares, On-Board O ₂ , B/P Cuff, Stethoscope, Portable Suction with Tip, Patient Rain Cover Bedpan, Long Board, Pulse Ox, On-Board Suction, Sharps Container	
	A/C Issues, Patient Compartment Seat Belts, Patient Flooring Compartment, Back Bumper	
Deficiencies	Goggles, O ₂ Mask, Micro/Macro Drip Sets, Biohazard Bags	
	Expired Medications: Atropine	

Sumiton Fire Rescue	420-2-1-.10	No Units Grounded
Deficiencies	ABD Pads, O ₂ Mask, Micro/Macro Drip Sets, Needles, CO ₂ Monitoring Equipment, Trauma Dressing, Stethoscope	
	Expired Medications: Activated Charcoal, Albuterol, Benadryl, Epi 1:1,000, Epi 1:10,000, Morphine Sulfate	
Tarrant Fire Department	420-2-1-.10	No Units Grounded
Deficiencies	Reflectors/Flares, Trauma Dressing, O ₂ Mask, Tri-Angular Bandages	
	Expired Medications: IV Fluid	
Trussville Fire Department	420-2-1-.10	No Units Grounded
Deficiencies	Abdominal Pads, O ₂ Mask, Micro/Macro Drip Sets, Butterfly Needles, IV Pressure Infuser, Emesis Container, Urinal	
Verbena Fire Service	420-2-1-.10	No Units Grounded
Deficiencies	Traction Splint, Spare Portable O ₂ , Nasopharyngeal, OB Kit, O ₂ Mask, Micro/Macro Drip Sets, IV Cannulae, Syringes, IV Pressure Infuser, IO Needles	
Vestavia Hills Fire Department	420-2-1-.10	No Units Grounded
Deficiencies	Micro/Macro Drip Sets, Butterfly Needles, Trauma Dressing, Bedpan, O ₂ Mask	

Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMSC) Update

The Alabama EMSC Program is wrapping up the 2010-2011 grant year. We have had a good year. EMSC partnered with the ADPH Center for Emergency Preparedness and the Office of EMS & Trauma to present the 3-day EMS Culture of Excellence Conference in October. Thank you to those of you who were able to attend. You certainly helped make it a success. The presentations will be archived on the EMS and Trauma page of the ADPH website (www.adph.org/ems).

We are in the process of surveying the provider services and hospitals for specific performance measures mandated by HRSA. The provider service survey deadline is December 28, 2010 so please complete your survey. As of December 21, we had a 70% response rate and we need an 80% response rate. The hospital survey deadline is February 18, 2011. As of December 20, 2010, we had a 38% response rate and we need an 80% response rate. The survey link is www.emscsurveys.org.

The performance measures are developed by an advisory committee. The committee is comprised of EMSC program managers, State EMS Directors, State EMS Medical Directors, and physicians who are involved with state EMSC programs. The process for developing the performance measures in [Performance Measures: An Implementation Manual for State Partnership Grantees, 2009 Edition](#) states that the process "was an interactive one informed by various activities, including a comprehensive document review of EMSC Program materials to identify the "universe" of measures; the selection of a subset of measures using a set of five criteria; the convening of a consensus group meeting and follow-up conference calls to identify three core performance measures; and technical visits to three beta-test grantee sites to further refine the three performance measures."

The provider service specific performance measures we are working on through the surveying process are:

- Performance Measure #71: The percent of pre-hospital provider agencies in the State/Territory that have on-line pediatric medical direction available from dispatch through patient transport to a definitive care facility.
- Performance Measure #72: The percent of pre-hospital provider agencies in the State/Territory that have off-line pediatric medical direction available from dispatch through patient transport to a definitive care facility.
- Performance Measure #73: The percent of patient care units in the State/Territory that have the essential pediatric equipment and supplies as outlined in national guidelines.

The hospital specific performance measures we are working on through the surveying process are:

- Performance Measure #76: The percentage of hospitals in the State/Territory that have written inter-facility transfer guidelines that cover pediatric patients and that include the following components of transfer:
 - o Defined process for initiation of transfer, including the roles and responsibilities of the referring facility and referral center (including responsibilities for requesting transfer and communication).
 - o Process for selecting the appropriate care facility.
 - o Process for selecting the appropriately staffed transport service to match the patient's acuity level (level of care required by patient, equipment needed in transport, etc).
 - o Process for patient transfer (including obtaining informed consent).
 - o Plan for transfer of patient medical record.
 - o Plan for transfer of copy of signed transport consent.
 - o Plan for transfer of personal belongings of the patient.
 - o Plan for provision of directions and referral institution information to family.
- Performance Measure #77: The percentage of hospitals in the State/Territory that have written inter-facility transfer agreements that cover pediatric patients.