



## **Update from the Office of EMS**

### **Volume XIV, Issue IV**

#### **From the State EMS Medical Director**

The cooler weather has EMS implications that we all are aware of but this is a good time to remind everyone. Make sure that your intravenous fluids and drugs are being kept climate controlled. Even a modest temperature decrease can certainly place certain patient populations at risk of hypothermia such as those patients at the extremes of age. Those patients with underlying medical problems can also be at risk of hypothermia.

Make sure you are doing your part to prevent hypothermia such as covering patients and making sure your transport vehicles are warmed. I would also encourage all EMSP to be cognizant of the fact that they too can suffer cold injuries while performing EMS activities. Take care of yourself as well.

As always I certainly appreciate your dedication to providing the very best care possible to the citizens and visitors of our state.

William E. Crawford, MD, FACEP  
State EMS Medical Director

## Licensure and Education Information

- All EMS students must be licensed by the State of Alabama at the previous level.
- 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.

### 2014 License Renewal Requirements

- **A New/Current photo** (services should upload new photo through Web Management)
- A current completed application
- National Registry card (if applicable)
- Alabama Full Protocol Certificate (Skills and Scenarios) Current Edition
- Alabama Protocol Update certificate
- A copy of your **TYPED** (appropriate) CPR card
- Walk-ins **WILL NOT** be processed during the license renewal period. Applications are processed on a first come-first served basis.

### 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 should include the Emergency Care Provider Course.

### **Transition Courses**

The National Registry website indicates that all EMSPs need to complete a transition course to re-certify. The OEMS has determined that Alabama EMSPs will **NOT** have to take a transition course. The National Registry renewal application will ask “have you transitioned?” All EMSPs should respond “yes” to this question. This transition is in name only and all EMSPs should disregard any request to submit transition paperwork to the National Registry.

### **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 (service) should register their agency on the NREMT website by following [these simple instructions](#). User guides for the online re-certification process can also be found [online](#).

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.

## 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 the National Registry's website ([www.nremt.org](http://www.nremt.org)).

### 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.

#### 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
- CPAP
- ECG (12-Lead)
- Endotracheal Intubation
- Hemostatic Agents
- Intraosseous Therapy

#### Advanced EMT

- Blind Insertion Airway Devices
- 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

J. Gary Mackey  
Deputy Director  
Individual Licensure Coordinator





### Provider Service News

Services in Regions Two (East), Five (Southeast), and Six (Gulf) have license expiration dates of December 31, 2013. A total of 132 services are approaching this renewal date. The EMS Provider Licensure renewal applications are available at [www.adph.org/ems](http://www.adph.org/ems). Services have the option of completing the web-based application or the traditional paper application. When utilizing the web-based app, complete all fields, make the \$25.00 licensure payment for transport services (additional \$4.00 convenience fee for all) by credit card, and submit the application electronically. Please make sure you submit the [Provider Electronic Patient Care Report Agreement](#) and the [EMS Web Management Form](#). These forms can be faxed to (334) 206-0364 or e-mailed to Mrs. Stephanie Smith at [Stephanie.Smith2@adph.state.al.us](mailto:Stephanie.Smith2@adph.state.al.us). It is the provider's responsibility to keep all required plans, with current signatures readily available, at the service location.

The traditional paper application is also located on the OEMS website and is designed so that fields may be filled via a desktop. Upon completion, print the application, obtain necessary signatures, include required plans and the \$25.00 transport fee, and mail the application to the OEMS. Handwritten applications and incomplete applications will not be accepted.

Please have renewal applications into the OEMS by December 20, 2013. Any applications received after December 20th could cause a delay in receiving your renewed license. **Remember, ambulance service operators and non-transport providers shall not cause or permit vehicles to be operated with Advanced Life Support (ALS) equipment, fluids, or medications on board after the expiration date of an ALS license unless a renewed license has been physically received by the provider.** In the event a license has not been renewed prior to the expiration date, third party payers may be notified by the OEMS. If an ALS Service Provider's license has not been renewed prior to the expiration date, the I.V. Fluid/Medication Supply/Re-Supply participating pharmacy or pharmaceutical supplier will be notified by the OEMS. All fluids and/or medications must be immediately returned to the supply/re-supply participating pharmacy or pharmaceutical supplier. **All ALS equipment must be removed from any vehicle and secured at its base station until a renewed license has been received from the OEMS.**

Hugh Hollon  
Provider Service Licensure Coordinator



## **Child Maltreatment**

**Nicole Jones, MD**

**Assistant Professor of Pediatrics**

**Pediatric Emergency Medicine**

**Children's Hospital, Birmingham, AL**

### **Definition**

Child abuse can be defined as words or actions that cause harm, potential harm or the threat of harm to a child under the age of 18. It encompasses verbal, physical and sexual abuse.

### **Epidemiology**

In 2010 9586 children in Alabama were victims of child abuse or neglect.

In 2010 13 children in Alabama died as a result of child abuse or neglect.

In the US, homicide is the leading cause of death in the first year of life.

50% of maltreated children who die have a history of prior episodes of abuse that were unreported or not taken seriously.

### **Historical Factors concerning for abuse**

Mechanism of injury that is not plausible given developmental stage of the child

Eg. A new born that has rolled off of a couch

Delay in seeking care

Past medical history of multiple traumatic injuries

Different histories between caregivers

Discrepancy between mechanism of injury and severity of injury

Eg. Multiple fractures after a 5 month old infant rolls off of a couch

### **Physical findings concerning for abuse**

Multiple bruises in locations not typically injured in routine child play (as opposed to typical bruising over shins, knees, forehead, bony prominences etc.)

Eg. Buttocks, cheeks, ears, abdomen

Perioral, genital or perianal injuries

Bizarre injuries

Human bites, cigarette burns, well demarcated burns, rope marks etc.

Multiple old fractures on x-ray

Skull or rib fractures in children < 2 years old

Long bone fractures in children < 3 years old

### **What should be done if child maltreatment is suspected?**

In the state of Alabama anyone who comes in regular contact with children has a legal duty to report incidents of suspected or obvious child maltreatment. This includes but is not limited to doctors, nurses, school teachers, law enforcement agents and social workers. If there is a concern a call should be placed to either the department of human resources or a law enforcement agency.





## **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—Call Mark Jackson

Service Inspections or Service Licenses—Call Hugh Hollon or Stephanie Smith

Individual Training, Testing, or Individual Licenses—Call Gary Mackey or Kempley Thomas

EMS for Children, Grants, Contracts, Website, Facebook, and Twitter—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.

### **Facebook and Twitter**

Alabama Office of EMS and Alabama EMSC are now on Facebook and Twitter. Please Like our pages and follow us on Twitter. Alabama Trauma Registry has recently joined Facebook so go like the ATR page too.

### **Newsletter Reminder**

The newsletter is free to anyone as long as they have internet access to our web page ([www.adph.org/ems](http://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](mailto:emsinquiry@adph.state.al.us) or call office staff at (334) 206-5383.