From the State EMS Director

As we begin a new year in the Office of EMS (OEMS), I am excited to see all of the changes that are taking place. Currently, we are in the process of updating the EMS Rules. They are in the public comment phase now and should be finalized in the next sixty days. We are also in the final stages of working on the new Critical Care Protocols that should be finalized next month. I would like to recognize three Critical Care Paramedics who have put a tremendous amount of effort into working on this document: Wes Kelley with Haynes Life Flight, Chad Jones and Kenneth Hanak with Med-Star Air Care One.

With a new year brings about renewal time for individual licenses, from now until March 31, 2019, so check and see when your EMSP license expires. If you have any questions about your renewal, please call our office and we will help you.

I continue to stay engaged at the national level in many ways. One is by attending the National Association of EMS Official’s meeting each year, regional meetings, and other meetings held by the organization. During these meetings, our staff is able to network with staff from other state EMS offices and learn what the issues are and what works best in other states. These meeting also give us an opportunity to network with our federal partners like the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Office of EMS, The Department of Defense, Department of Homeland Security, National Registry of EMTs, and the International Board of Specialty Certifications.

This time next year we should be in our new location in Prattville! We will be moving into a new building that is currently being constructed in Prattville near Legends Drive. By January 2020, we should be in our new location along with the Center for Emergency Preparedness and the Office of Radiation Control.

I want to thank you for all that you do as we continue to provide great emergency medical care to the citizen of the state of Alabama!

Stephen Wilson
State EMS Director
From the State EMS Medical Director

I want to take this opportunity to comment on a few things. First, I encourage everyone to make a conscious effort to enter those patients into the trauma and stroke systems that meet the criteria for entry. If we ever have an opportunity to fund these systems, the funding will be driven by data. Let’s get credit for what we really do!

Second, take every opportunity to educate people about what we really do. I have found that in many cases the public has a very limited understanding of what we really do in EMS. Many times they have no idea of the life saving equipment and pharmacological agents we use. There is certainly a limited knowledge, from the public, of how much initial and continuing education we must undergo. Buildup and talk up our profession!

Third, it is now the time that many of us are renewing our national registry certification and our state license. I want to remind everyone that it is YOUR responsibility to make sure your renewals are completed. It is not your chief, training officer, or supervisor’s responsibility. I too am renewing my registry this year for my paramedic certification and it will be me that makes sure this is done! Don’t let all of your training go to waste by forgetting to renew.

Please let myself or the OEMS staff know if we can assist you in any way.

Dr. William E. Crawford
State EMS Medical Director
## Compliance Issues

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Rule/Protocol</th>
<th>Complaint</th>
<th>Action Taken</th>
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<tr>
<td>Amanda Daniels</td>
<td>420-2-1-.30</td>
<td>Patient Care Issues</td>
<td>Remediation</td>
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Provider Service Inspections

These inspections were completed October-December, 2018.

Air Evac-Fayette County
Cordova Fire Department
Crossville Fire Rescue
East Alabama Fire District
Fayette EMS
Gulf Shores Fire Rescue
Haynes Ambulance-Macon County
International Paper
Lamar Ambulance Service
Marion EMS
North Lamar EMS
Orange Beach Fire Rescue
Regional Air Medical Services
RPS-Marion County
RPS-Walker County
RPS-Winston County
Sumiton Fire and Rescue Service
Culture of Excellence

Gulf Shores Fire Rescue
Regional Air Medical Services
  RPS-Marion County
  RPS-Walker County
  RPS-Winston County
Regional Office Updates

For anyone in need of Alabama State EMS Protocol training, please visit www.bremss.org to access electronic training. You may find the training under the Education tab. Once you have completed the training, you will need to complete the exam and pass with at least a 70% in order to receive your completion certificate.

Michael Minor, BBA, NRP
Executive Director
Birmingham Regional EMS System

In 1978, the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians adopted the “EMT Oath”. Part of the oath reads, “I will follow that regimen which, according to my ability and judgment, I consider for the benefit of patients and abstain from whatever is deleterious and mischievous, nor shall I suggest any such counsel.” We have all attended EMT courses. We have spent the grueling hours of study and rotations. Many of us have worked full time jobs and supported families while attending school. We remember the sleepless nights, the exams, the charting, and the NREMT testing. We have lived through countless changes in our young profession. I recall being advised in paramedic school that we would more than likely never utilize 12-lead ECG in the field. Now we utilize this skill as a basic part of our assessment. Some of our ranks even remember answering calls in a hearse out of the funeral home or when the Lifepak 5 was cutting edge technology.

We have been witness to the birth of a new life and, in the very next call, become witness to the passing of it. We have held patients whom we know we will not revive, regardless of efforts. We have borne the burden of telling a parent their child is gone. We have held the hand of the spouse when we tell them their loved one has passed away. We have seen the worst of humanity and its best all while wearing the Star of Life.

We took an oath to do all we do for the benefit of the patient. Sometimes we become jaded or so overcome with the loss and devastation we witness that we forget this simple promise. We are the patient advocate. That is the sum of all we do and the core of our being. We are the guardians of life and the wounded healers. It is simple to become so frustrated with paperwork, administration, rules, and regulations that we forget this simple promise: we are the patient advocate. Not for money, not for fame, not for glory, but for those who cry out for help in their darkest hour. Some of us have forgotten this oath. We have become so enamored with everything else that we forget why we pinned the Star of Life on our chest in the first place. Jocko Willink once said, “Basically, if you’re not looking at yourself with a critical eye, you are not going to reach your potential.” We have some of the best providers in the country, but we can always be better. Let’s look at ourselves with a critical eye. Let’s begin to remember why we started this profession in the first place. It is an honor to work beside each of you and for the ones who need us most. Let us never forget that.

Lamar Green
Field Coordinator
Alabama Gulf EMS Systems (AGEMSS)
EMS for Children Update

EMS Recognition Program

The Alabama EMSC Program wants to establish a recognition program in conjunction with EMSC Day in May. We are looking for providers who have made the right call in an emergent situation with a pediatric patient. While we want to always recognize our providers who have a positive outcome with a critical patient, this recognition program is going to focus on the everyday emergencies our providers see.

Please send your nominations along with a description of the call and the outcome, if known, to Katherine Hert (katherine.hert@adph.state.al.us) by March 29, 2019. The nominations will be evaluated by a workgroup of the Alabama EMSC Advisory Board and will be announced in conjunction with a continuing education opportunity at Children’s Hospital on EMSC Day (May 22, 2019).

Equipment Grant Opportunity

The Alabama EMSC Program budgeted additional funding in the grant this year to assist providers in purchasing pediatric restraints. An equipment grant application will be distributed in February to each service. The application due date will be March 8, 2019 with an award announcement date of April 1, 2019. The equipment available will be the Ferno PediMate and NeoMate. The applications will be reviewed by a workgroup of the Alabama EMSC Advisory Board and will be evaluated on need based on income and expenses and the ability to participate in a fund match program. If you have any questions, please contact Katherine Hert (katherine.hert@adph.state.al.us).

Katherine Dixon Hert, BSBA
EMSC Program Manager
Alabama e-PCR Submission Requirements

Some e-PCR Points of Clarification:
1. It is a requirement to complete a patient care report on every 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 72 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 them 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.

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
Licensure — Call Stephanie Smith, Kembley Thomas, or Vickie Turner
Individual Training or Testing—Call Chris Hutto
EMS for Children, Website, and Social Media—Call Katherine Dixon Hert
EMS Data/NEMSIS – Call Gary Varner

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.

Reporting Requirements

Please be reminded that, according to Rule 420-2-1-.07 (6h), All licensed provider services shall provide notification and written documentation within three working days to the OEMS regarding any protocol or rule violation, which includes but not limited to, according to 420-2-1-.30 (8), anyone guilty of misconduct or has committed a serious and material violation of these rules; has been convicted of a crime.

Also be reminded that, according to Rule 420-2-1-.29 (7), All licensed provider services shall provide notification and written documentation about any individual who meets the definition of an impaired EMSP.