A Look at the New DNR Act

The Pennsylvania Department of Health has adopted final amendments for Act 59, which is the Advance Directive for Health Care Act and the Do-Not-Resuscitate Act. The final regulations deal with general rules for the issuance, administration and revocation of out-of-hospital DNR orders, including those for pregnant patients.

The amendments to the Advance Directive Act provide revised requirements for when EMS personnel are to implement a patient's advance declaration directing that the patient not be resuscitated. The DNR Act establishes standards for and procedures by which a patient's attending physician may provide a patient with an out-of-hospital DNR order, bracelet or necklace that EMS personnel are to honor.

The new regulations direct EMS providers on procedures for implementing an out-of-hospital DNR order when a patient experiences cardiac or respiratory arrest. Under the DNR Act, the EMS provider is empowered to withhold CPR upon observing an out-of-hospital DNR order, bracelet or necklace displayed by the patient. Also, the EMS provider is not required to contact a medical command physician to secure approval.

This change in regulation differs from the Advance Directive for Health Care Act where EMS providers cannot follow the directive until a medical command physician, who determines the directive is operative and directs to withhold or discontinue CPR, gives approval.

INSIDE

STOP
DO NOT
RESUSCITATE

New DNR Act continued from cover

In the event a patient has both a DNR order and an Advance Directive, the new regulations state that the EMS provider is to follow the procedure for complying with the out-of-hospital DNR order.

Under the new DNR Act, the following procedures should take place for out-of-hospital DNR orders:

- Patients who are diagnosed with a terminal illness will be issued an out-of-hospital DNR order and possibly a bracelet or necklace by their attending physician. These direct an EMS provider to withhold providing CPR to the patient in the event of cardiac or respiratory arrest.

- The patient must possess and display the order, bracelet or necklace when under the care of an EMS provider. A patient's surrogate may also present the EMS provider with an out-of-hospital DNR order for the patient.

- The patient or surrogate may revoke the DNR order without a physician's approval or knowledge by conveying the decision verbally or otherwise at the time of respiratory or cardiac arrest.

- EMS providers may administer CPR if the provider is uncertain of the validity or applicability of the DNR, bracelet or necklace.

- An EMS provider who complies with the patient's out-of-hospital DNR order may provide other medical intervention to the patient for comfort or to alleviate pain.

- If a patient is pregnant at the time of cardiac or respiratory arrest, life-sustaining treatment, CPR, nutrition and hydration will be provided unless the patient's physician and obstetrician have certified that such treatment will be physically harmful to the pregnant patient, will not maintain the pregnant patient in a way to permit the continuing development and live birth of the unborn child, or will cause pain to the patient that cannot be alleviated by medication.

Some other updates and regulations approved in Act 59 include:

- Physicians are required to discuss the DNR Act with appropriate patients and secure out-of-hospital DNR orders, bracelets and necklaces. These items can be purchased through vendors that the Department of Health has identified and will publish in the Pennsylvania Bulletin. Within the Act is specific information on duties the physician is required to perform before issuing the order.

Physicians are required to maintain a copy of the order in the patient's medical record.

- EMS providers are to comply with out-of-hospital DNR orders issued in another states if that state's orders, bracelets and necklace are consistent with Pennsylvania law. The DOH will issue a list of other states with orders, bracelets and necklaces that are acceptable in Pennsylvania.

- If CPR has been initiated for the patient before a pre-hospital practitioner arrives on the scene, and the pre-hospital practitioner determines a DNR order is effective, the prehospital practitioner may not continue CPR without being directed to do so by a medical command physician.

In the coming weeks, ambulance services will be required to have written policies and procedures on this Act. Additional time will be given to adopt these policies and procedures. Regulations will also be ineffective until DNR orders, bracelets and necklaces are available.

Curricula for securing prehospital certifications and recognitions will also be modified to include the requirements in the future. The DOH will be developing an out-of-hospital DNR order form for physicians as well as a process for filing on paper or electronically.

For more information on Act 59 or to receive copy of the rules and regulations, contact Kathy Robinson, EMS program manager, at (717) 787-8740 or EMSI at (412) 242-7322, www.emsi04.org.

DOH Announces Smallpox Vaccination Plan

While professionals at hospitals and health care facilities nationwide gear up and begin offering smallpox vaccinations to its workers, EMS and other first responder personnel are on standby to implement a future plan for inoculation.

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) began Stage 1 of smallpox vaccinations earlier this year on emergency, health care workers and other official personnel who have volunteered to be a part of the Smallpox Response Teams. In Stage 2, EMS personnel, firefighters and law enforcement personnel will be for eligible for vaccinations. The HHS reports that the United States has sufficient quantities of the vaccine to inoculate every single American should such an emergency occur.

According to the Pennsylvania Department of Health Smallpox Vaccination Plan, smallpox is a serious illness that is caused by the variola virus and is spread from person to person through close contact. The disease can cause a severe rash, high fever, tiredness, severe headaches and backaches, blindness and death in up to 30 percent of those infected. Because of its high fatality rates and transmissibility, smallpox is one of the most serious bioterrorist threats to the civilian population.

In the United States, the general population has not been vaccinated during the past 30 years. This fact, coupled with the fatality rate and the lack of real treatment for victims, has prompted the Federal and State governments to issue plans for dealing with an outbreak of

smallpox

the disease both pre-event and post-event. According to the HHS, the smallpox vaccine is highly effective protection against the disease when given before or shortly after exposure to the virus.

Should a confirmed smallpox outbreak occur, it may be necessary to vaccinate a large population quickly and treat those with the disease while containing it to keep from further contamination of individuals. According to the plan, smallpox vaccination clinics will be set up and facilities identified to handle those individuals with the disease. Because of the risks, EMS and other personnel who could potentially transfer patients to these designated sites should be vaccinated prior to any outbreak in order to receive protection from exposure.

Once vaccinated, individuals are advised to avoid contact transmission of the disease and keep the vaccination site covered to keep from transmitting the

vaccina. In addition, care must be taken to keep all materials that may be contaminated separate from general areas, placed in biohazard containers, and treated as infectious waste. The vaccina virus can be spread as soon as the second post vaccination day until the scab penetrates the skin at about 14 to 21 days.

Reaction to the vaccine can include soreness at the vaccination site, intense erythema ringing the vaccination site, malaise, lymphadenopathy, myalgia, headache, chills, nausea, fatigue and fever. The vaccine is considered generally safe, according to the DOH report. A small number of adverse reactions may occur with a rare occurrence of serious or life threatening complications. It is anticipated, according to the DOH, that one in three of the recipients of the vaccine may miss one or more days of work and that there will be 14 to 52 serious reactions per one million recipients. Approximately one in one million recipients will die from the reactions.

The adverse effects of the vaccine are often cited as a reason for individuals declining the injection of the smallpox vaccine. However, statistics from the Department of Health show that the death rate for the disease is 30 percent while the death rate for the vaccine is one in 1 million and one in 4 million for those who have been previously vaccinated.

The HHS and the Justice Department are reviewing liability coverage. In addition, the Center for Disease Control is working on developing statistical profiling to follow employees who are

vaccinated to establish adverse event rates and provide guidelines for worker fitness.

The Epidemiology (Epi) manager in each Health District has been designated to assure an appropriate number of first responders are immunized and available to respond in the event of an outbreak of smallpox. The Epi manager is also responsible for maintaining records on the individuals who have been vaccinated and providing ongoing training and orientation on the disease. Included in the first round of 22,500 available vaccinations will be 5,000 for the state's police force. At local acute care facilities (hospitals with emergency departments), vaccines are available to first responders as part of the personnel selected to receive inoculations. This includes basic life support ambulance services serving these facilities.

The Department of Health recommends that one ambulance for each 50,000 people in a county be designated to transport smallpox victims in the event of an outbreak. These ambulances should be staffed 24 hours a day with six crew members who have volunteered to be vaccinated. A list is being developed to strip ambulances of non-essential gear for transporting smallpox victims in an outbreak. This means that much of the gear required to be on board for licensure could be removed prior to transport and not be subject to disinfection procedures afterward. Fogging with para-formaldehyde, a process that takes 24 to 48 hours, would disinfect ambulance patient compartments.

All EMS services should be planning which services would be called within their county to respond to potential smallpox patients. This includes knowing which EMS personnel are willing to be vaccinated and providing appropriate education and training on handling these potentially serious cases.

For more information on smallpox and the plans for vaccination, access a copy of the Pennsylvania Smallpox Vaccination Plan online at www.state.pa.us. Type in the word smallpox in the keyword lookup search. Additional information is also available at the official government web site, www.cdc.gov/smallpox.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

New Accident Form Developed

The Pennsylvania Department of Health has developed a form for reporting vehicular accidents involving ambulances. This form, which is similar to police forms for reporting accidents, must be completed and reported within 24 hours of an accident. Fatalities must be reported within eight hours.

Forms can be submitted online; however, a signed form must be printed and mailed to the regional office for the permanent file. For more information on completing the new form, or for a copy of the form, visit the EMSI website at www.emsi04.org.

Electronic Patient Care Record Use Encouraged

Are you submitting your Patient Care Records (trip sheets) electronically?

EMS providers in western Pennsylvania submit approximately 45 percent of its trip sheets electronically, according to the Pennsylvania Department of Health. This is significantly less than other regions in Pennsylvania that average a 90 percent electronic filing record.

The cost to file paper trip sheets is 28 cents per sheet. By reducing this form of filing, EMSI could see a significant cost savings. While there is no new funding available to provide the necessary equipment and software to file electronically, EMSI has a supply of computers available to services that are willing to buy the needed software for this task. In addition to the computers, the Emergency Medical Services Operating Fund (EMSOF) has funds available for the purchase of approved trip sheet software programs for up to $1,700.

The EMSI board is working on a plan to increase the percentage of trip sheets transmitted electronically. This plan, which should be in place by July 2003, will supply computers and funding for software separate of EMSOF funding.

For more information on electronic transmission of trip sheets or funding opportunities, contact Phil Stoner, executive director, EMSI, at (412) 242-7322.

Kevin A. Lipscomb Named EMSI Assistant Executive Director

EMSI has named Kevin A. Lipscomb to the newly created position of assistant executive director. In this role, Lipscomb will have primary responsibility for EMSI office operations including data management and statistical reporting, development of policies and procedures, and staff supervision.

Lipscomb comes to EMSI from Hampton Roads, VA, where he has extensive experience as a computer programmer and analyst. Before moving to Pittsburgh late in 2002, Lipscomb was a consultant for PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLP. He has also worked as a programmer-analyst for Remtech Services Inc. and Comptek Federal Systems Inc.

A nationally registered paramedic, Lipscomb was active in the Kempsville Volunteer Rescue Squad for the Virginia Beach Department of Emergency Medical Service in Virginia Beach, VA, since 1989. While there, he was president of the Rescue Squad where he provided vision and strategically directed this non-profit corporation. He is also the former president of the Council of Virginia Beach Volunteer Rescue Squad, a former captain of the Kempsville Volunteer Rescue Squad, and former special operations captain for the Virginia Beach Department of EMS. He was also the webmaster for the Kempsville Volunteer Rescue Squad where he designed and maintained the squad's official web site.

Since coming to Pittsburgh, Lipscomb has been working at Seneca Area EMS as a paramedic taking ambulance calls. He moved to Pittsburgh with his wife who is an Emergency Medicine resident at the Center for Emergency Medicine. He began his official duties with EMSI on February 24.

A 1988 graduate of Virginia Tech, Lipscomb has received numerous honors and awards in his career including 2002 Special Operations Member of the Year, Virginia Beach Department of EMS; Distinguished Service awards from the Kempsville Volunteer Rescue Squad and the Virginia Beach Rescue Council; Medal of Merit, Lifesaver Awards, and Unit Commendation Ribbons, Virginia Beach Department of EMS; and 1992 Rescue Member of the Year Award, Kempsville Volunteer Rescue Squad.

A Reminder: EOAs No Longer Approved Devices for ALS Providers

Last year, the Pennsylvania Department of Health deleted the Esophageal Obturator Airway (EOA) as an approved device for ALS providers. Recently, the Emergency Medical Services Office completed a review of 2001-02 Patient Care Reports and found that ambulance services may still be using EOAs in violation of the policy.

All ambulance services are reminded that an EOA is no longer an approved device for ALS personnel and must not be used. Services should check to be sure that the entries on trip sheets are recorded correctly; although there is a block on the trip sheet for this entry, EOAs should not be used or checked.

Also, the affiliate number listed should be checked to be sure it corresponds to a BLS service and that the affiliate number listed does not correspond to any ambulance service. In addition, all licensure coordinators should routinely check vehicles as part of the inspection process to ensure that EOAs are not present.

For more information on the EOA deletion or potential errors in reporting on trip sheets, contact Robert H. Gaumer, EMS program specialist, Emergency Medical Service Office, at rgaumer@state.pa.us.

Computerized System Now Available for Continuing Education Training

EMS personnel who want to receive continuing education training are just a click away from a new system that allows individuals to take classes from their e-mail enabled computer system. The new program is being offered by the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

Entitled the Learning Management System (LMS), this new program provides content on a number of topics, including Pennsylvania's smallpox plan, the Pennsylvania National Pharmaceutical Stockpile Plan, Pennsylvania's Laboratory Network, Disaster Nursing, Health Alert Network, and the National Electronic Disease Surveillance System. At this time, continuing education credits are not available for online education efforts through the LMS. This valuable credit is planned to be available in the future.

The system requires a sound card for participants to hear the audio portion of the classes. Funding is available through EMSI to purchase up to 100 sound cards for services that currently have a computer base, but lack the ability to hear the audio portion of the presentations.

The DOH has allocated 20,000 subscriptions for EMS personnel, with distribution completed on a first-come first-served basis. Subscriptions will not be based on regional EMS council basis. Subscribers are limited to one user ID and password; persons with dual certification (EMT and paramedic) must choose which certification they will use.

Individual practitioners may sign up for this service through EMSI, which will in turn compile the information and submit it to the state EMS office.

Anyone interested in learning more about the Learning Management System or purchasing sound cards should contact Phil Stoner, executive director, EMSI, at (412) 242-7322. Also, suggestions for future programs and presenters are being sought. Anyone with ideas should contact Gail Dubs at sdubs@state.pa.us.

Web Site News

Do you have important information you need to discuss with a staff member from EMSI? If so, the EMSI web site can be a useful resource to you.
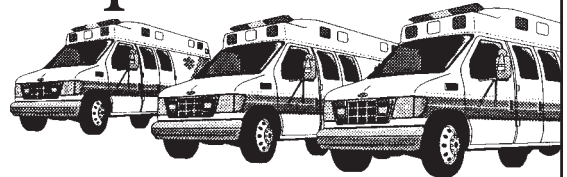
As you know, many of the EMSI personnel are busy out in the field doing training, accreditation and licensures. They are often not readily accessible by phone. If this is the case as you try to access EMSI, just log on to the EMSI web site at emsi04.org and access the info user link to e-mail a message. Or check out the e-mail list on page 15 for access to all personnel in the EMSI office.

Once you send a message, an EMSI staff member will respond as soon as possible to your request for information.

Remember to Return Your Paramedic Survey

Paramedics in the region are encouraged to complete and return the Department of Health survey that was recently mailed to a number of professionals. The survey seeks pertinent information on recruitment and retention problems with paramedics in the area.

The survey was due by March 15. If you received the survey and have not yet completed it, please do so as soon as possible and return it to the proper personnel. Your responses are vital to assessing the problems in the system so solutions can be discussed and implemented.

For more information on the survey, contact EMSI at (412) 242-7322.

EMS Week • May 18-24
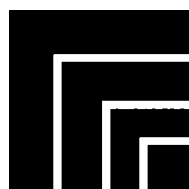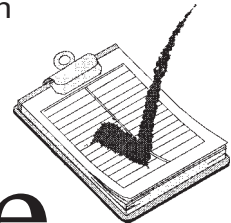
Report on Ambulance Licensures and QRS Recognition

During the period of December 2002 to February 2003, EMSI's field staff conducted inspections on the following EMS providers in the region. All providers met the requirements established by the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

A new license was issued to:
Armstrong County
 Dayton Ambulance Service

Regular ambulance licenses were issued to:
Butler County
 Chicora Community VFD Ambulance
 Slippery Rock VFC Ambulance
  Rescue Team
 Quality EMS

Fayette County
 Brownsville EMS
 Marclay EMS
 Perryopolis Area Ambulance Service
 Point Marion VFD

Greene County
 Clarksville & Community VFD

Lawrence County
 New Wilmington Volunteer
  Ambulance Service

Washington County
 Bentworth Ambulance
 Meadowlands Ambulance
 McDonald VFD
 Mt Pleasant Twp VFD

Westmoreland County
 Allegheny Ludlum Steel
 Arnold EMS
 Irwin VFD EMS
 Murrysville Medic One

 Mutual Aid Ambulance Service
 New Kensington Ambulance
 Trafford EMS
 Vandergrift EMS

The following units received QRS recognition:
Butler County
 Callery VFD

Lawrence County
 Volant VFD

Washington County
 Muse #2 VFD
 Washington County Department of
  Public Safety

2003 Class Registrations By Specific Dates

Start Date	Time	Class Number	Course Name	Hours 1st Resp	Hours EMT	Hours Med PHRN	Class Location	Contact	Phone
4/1	18:30	030391	Structual Fire Rescue	4.00	4.00	4.00	Allegheny Co Fire Acad	CCAC	(412) 237-2500
4/3	8:00	030212	PA Essentials Fire Fighting (EBM)	9.50	9.50	9.50	Allegheny Co Fire Acad	CCAC	(412) 237-2500
4/3	9:00	030037	AED	4.00	4.00	4.00	Hamer Hall	Barbara Webb	(724) 938-5956
4/3	8:00	030108	PALS	0.00	0.00	16.00	Canonsburg Hospital	Michael Gannon	(412) 359-3923
4/4	18:30	030463	Case Review	3.00	3.00	3.00	Medical Center Beaver	Joe Campbell	(724) 773-3433
4/4	7:45	030322	PALS	0.00	0.00	16.00	Children's Hospital	Prehospital Service	(412) 692-8720
4/4	7:30	030524	PALS-R	0.00	0.00	8.00	Mercy Hospital	Jim Blosser	(412) 232-5906
4/4	18:00	030202	IAFF HazMat Trng - First Resp.	21.50	21.50	21.50	Richland EMS	William Wise	(724) 443-3030
4/5	8:00	030284	PHTLS-R	0.00	8.00	8.00	Valley Ambulance	MC Nash	(412) 749-7120
4/5	8:00	030239	AED	4.00	4.00	4.00	Washington Co Courthouse	CCAC	(412) 237-2500
4/5	8:00	030376	Structual Collapse Operation II SC	2.50	2.50	2.50	Allegheny Co Fire Acad	CCAC	(412) 237-2500
4/5	8:00	030123	PALS	0.00	0.00	16.00	CCAC	CCAC	(412) 237-2500
4/5	8:00	030329	ACLS	0.00	0.00	16.00	WCCC Youngwood	David Hauger	(800) 262-2103
4/6	8:00	030124	PALS-R	0.00	0.00	8.00	CCAC	CCAC	(412) 237-2500
4/6	8:00	030330	ACLS - R	0.00	0.00	8.00	WCCC Youngwood	David Hauger	(800) 262-2103
4/7	18:30	030389	Basic Rope Rescue	10.00	10.00	10.00	Allegheny Co Fire Acad	CCAC	(412) 237-2500
4/9	11:00	030166	Focused History/Phys Exam - Med.	2.00	2.00	2.00	Jeannette Hospital	Don Thoma	(724) 527-9341
4/9	20:30	030291	Ecstacy & It's Adulterants	1.50	1.50	1.50	Valley Ambulance	MC Nash	(412) 749-7120
4/9	19:00	030294	Street Drugs	1.50	1.50	1.50	Valley Ambulance	MC Nash	(412) 749-7120
4/9	8:00	030057	ACLS	0.00	0.00	16.00	Allegheny General	Michael Gannon	(412) 359-3923
4/9	8:00	030140	ACLS - R	0.00	0.00	8.00	Medical Rescue Team So	Adella Mueller	(724) 356-7381
4/10	7:00	030499	ACLS	0.00	0.00	16.00	Mercy Hospital	Jim Blosser	(412) 232-5906
4/12	8:00	030133	Emergency Vehicle Driver Training	16.00	16.00	16.00	CCAC	CCAC	(412) 237-2500
4/12	8:00	030410	ACLS - R	0.00	0.00	8.00	Jefferson Hospital	CCAC	(412) 237-2500
4/14	18:30	030134	Bas. Vehicle Res-Ops-DOH (DHVRO)	11.00	11.00	11.00	Monroeville #4	CCAC	(412) 237-2500
4/16	18:30	030455	Case Review	3.00	3.00	3.00	Medical Center Beaver	Joe Campbell	(724) 773-3433
4/16	9:00	030557	Blood Borne Pathogens	3.00	3.00	3.00	Allegheny Co Health Dept	CCAC	(412) 237-2500
4/16	18:30	030125	Terrorism Awareness (TADP)	4.00	4.00	4.00	CCAC	CCAC	(412) 237-2500
4/16	8:00	030058	ACLS - R	0.00	0.00	8.00	Allegheny General	Michael Gannon	(412) 359-3923
4/19	8:00	030135	HazMat Resp. for EMS Personnel	14.00	14.00	14.00	CCAC	CCAC	(412) 237-2500
4/21	8:00	030365	Pulse/EM 2003-04 Natural Disasters	1.50	1.50	1.50	Ross West View EMS	Ed Davies	(412) 931-8200
4/21	8:00	030213	Bas. Vehicle Resc-Aware-DOH DHVRA	10.00	10.00	10.00	Monroeville #4	CCAC	(412) 237-2500
4/21	8:00	030059	PALS-R	0.00	0.00	8.00	Allegheny General	Michael Gannon	(412) 359-3923
4/22	18:00	030490	Emer.Vehicle Driver Training	16.00	16.00	16.00	CEM	Walt Stoy	(412) 647-4667
4/23	8:00	030214	Bas. Vehicle Res-Ops-DOH DHVRO	11.00	11.00	11.00	Monroeville #4	CCAC	(412) 237-2500
4/23	8:00	030061	PALS	0.00	0.00	16.00	Alle Kiski Center	Michael Gannon	(412) 359-3923
4/23	8:00	030060	PALS	0.00	0.00	16.00	Alle Kiski Center	Michael Gannon	(412) 359-3923
4/24	18:00	030392	Fire Fighter Survival (SURV)	2.50	2.50	2.50	Allegheny Co Fire Acad	CCAC	(412) 237-2500
4/25	8:00	030558	Incident Command	4.00	4.00	4.00	BCCC	Vern Smith	(724) 287-8711
4/25	8:00	030115	PALS	0.00	0.00	16.00	Westmoreland Hospital	Michael Gannon	(412) 359-3923
4/26	8:00	030488	Adv. Medical Life Support(AMLS)	9.50	9.50	15.50	CEM	Tom Platt	(412) 647-4665
4/26	8:00	030136	Bas. Rigging Rope Rescue (ROBR)	2.00	2.00	2.00	CCAC	CCAC	(412) 237-2500
4/26	8:00	030560	Incident Command	4.00	4.00	4.00	BCCC	Vern Smith	(724) 287-8711
4/27	8:00	030561	Incident Command	4.00	4.00	4.00	BCCC	Vern Smith	(724) 287-8711
4/28	18:30	030223	Basic Rescue Practices	11.00	11.00	11.00	Ross West View EMS	CCAC	(412) 237-2500
4/28	8:00	030062	ACLS - R	0.00	0.00	8.00	West Penn Hospital	Michael Gannon	(412) 359-3923
4/29	8:00	030277	PALS	0.00	0.00	16.00	Sewickley Valley Hospital	MC Nash	(412) 749-7120
4/29	8:00	030307	PALS	0.00	0.00	16.00	BCCC	Vern Smith	(724) 287-8711
4/30	8:00	030275	PALS-R	0.00	0.00	8.00	Sewickley Valley Hospital	MC Nash	(412) 749-7120
4/30	8:00	030109	PALS-R	0.00	0.00	8.00	Canonsburg Hospital	Michael Gannon	(412) 359-3923
5/1	8:00	030406	PALS-R	0.00	0.00	8.00	St Clair Hospital	CCAC	(412) 237-2500
5/1	8:00	030361	BTLS	16.00	16.00	16.00	Arnold Ambulance	BCCC	(724) 287-8711
5/1	8:00	030063	ACLS - R	0.00	0.00	8.00	West Penn Hospital	Michael Gannon	(412) 359-3923
5/2	18:30	030460	Case Review	3.00	3.00	3.00	Medical Center Beaver	Joe Campbell	(724) 773-3433
5/2	19:00	030494	BTLS	16.00	16.00	16.00	CEM	Bob Seitz	(412) 647-4671
5/3	8:00	030263	Critical Care for EMS			14.00	Valley Ambulance	Judith Haluka	(412) 262-5736
5/5	7:00	030514	ACLS for the Experienced Provider	0.00	0.00	8.00	Mercy Hospital	Jim Blosser	(412) 232-5906
5/5	18:30	030137	Bas. Vehicle Resc-Tech-DOH DHVRT	7.00	7.00	7.00	Monroeville #4	CCAC	(412) 237-2500

Start Date	Time	Class Number	Course Name	Hours 1st Resp	Hours EMT	Hours Med PHRN	Class Location	Contact	Phone
5/7	19:00	030292	Helping Hands Assisting Paramedic	0.00	0.00	3.00	Valley Ambulance	MC Nash	(412) 749-7120
5/7	18:30	030126	AED	4.00	4.00	4.00	CCAC	CCAC	(412) 237-2500
5/7	18:30	030604	EBM/BRP Bridge	12.00	12.00	12.00	Guyasuta VFD	CCAC	(412) 237-2500
5/7	19:00	030383	Environmental Emergencies	2.00	2.00	2.00	Latrobe Hospital	Keith Stouffer	(724) 537-1578
5/8	8:00	030064	ACLS	0.00	0.00	16.00	West Penn Hospital	Michael Gannon	(412) 359-3923
5/12	8:00	030594	MCI Overview & Practical Training	8.00	8.00	8.00	Latrobe Hospital	Keith Stouffer	(724) 537-1578
5/12	18:30	030191	Bas. Vehicle Resc-Aware-DOH DHVRA	10.00	10.00	10.00	St Vincent College	Bob Grunmeier	(215) 340-8401
5/12	18:30	030198	Dynamics of Emergency Vehicle	4.00	4.00	4.00	St Vincent College	Bob Grunmeier	(215) 430-8401
5/12	18:30	030201	Respiratory Protect I (REPR)	2.00	2.00	2.00	St Vincent College	Bob Grunmeier	(215) 430-8401
5/12	18:30	030192	Hazardous Materials R & I	4.00	4.00	4.00	St Vincent College	Bob Grunmeier	(215) 340-8401
5/13	19:00	030193	Carbon Mon. Detector Resp CORE	1.50	1.50	1.50	St Vincent College	Bob Grunmeier	(215) 340-8401
5/14	11:00	030167	Scene Size Up & Initial Assessment	1.50	1.50	1.50	Jeannette Hospital	Don Thoma	(724) 527-9341
5/14	16:30	030266	ACLS Refresher - Accelerated			6.00	Valley Ambulance	Judith Haluka	(412) 262-5736
5/14	8:00	030308	ACLS	0.00	0.00	16.00	BCCC	Vern Smith	(724) 287-8711
5/14	8:00	030065	ACLS - R	0.00	0.00	8.00	Allegheny General	Michael Gannon	(412) 359-3923
5/15	8:00	030215	Fire Fighter Survival (SURV)	2.50	2.50	2.50	Allegheny Co Fire Acad	CCAC	(412) 237-2500
5/15	8:00	030309	ACLS - R	0.00	0.00	8.00	BCCC	Vern Smith	(724) 287-8711
5/15	18:30	030194	Propane Emer. Awareness PPEA	1.00	1.00	1.00	St Vincent College	Bob Grunmeier	(215) 340-8401
5/16	7:45	030317	PALS-R	0.00	0.00	8.00	Children's Hospital	Prehospital Service	(412) 692-8720
5/17	8:00	030066	PHTLS-R	0.00	8.00	8.00	Allegheny General	Michael Gannon	(412) 359-3923
5/17	8:00	030195	Bas. Vehicle Res-Ops-DOH DHVRO	11.00	11.00	11.00	St Vincent College	Bob Grunmeier	(215) 430-8401
5/17	8:00	030196	Bus Rescue (BRES)	11.00	11.00	11.00	St Vincent College	Bob Grunmeier	(215) 340-8401
5/17	8:00	030199	Incident Command	4.00	4.00	4.00	St Vincent College	Bob Grunmeier	(215) 340-8401
5/17	8:00	030200	Emer. Vehicle Driver Training	16.00	16.00	16.00	St Vincent College	Bob Grunmeier	(215) 430-8401
5/19	7:00	030508	ACLS - R	0.00	0.00	8.00	Mercy Hospital	Jim Blosser	(412) 232-5906
5/20	8:00	030067	ACLS - R	0.00	0.00	8.00	Forbes Regional	Michael Gannon	(412) 359-3923
5/21	18:30	030454	Case Review	3.00	3.00	3.00	Medical Center Beaver	Joe Campbell	(724) 773-3433
5/21	17:30	030270	PALS Refresher - Accelerated			5.00	Valley Ambulance	Judith Haluka	(412) 262-5736
5/21	19:00	030224	Bleeding and Shock	2.00	2.00	2.00	CCAC	CCAC	(412) 237-2500
5/21	8:00	030216	High Rise Fire Fighting (HIRI)	1.00	1.00	1.00	Allegheny Co Fire Acad	CCAC	(412) 237-2500
5/22	8:00	030068	ACLS - R	0.00	0.00	8.00	Allegheny General	Michael Gannon	(412) 359-3923
5/28	7:45	030041	Neonatal ALS - AHA	0.00	0.00	7.00	Children's Hospital	Prehospital Services	(412) 692-8720
5/28	8:00	030069	ACLS	0.00	0.00	16.00	Forbes Regional	Michael Gannon	(412) 359-3923
5/29	7:45	030323	PALS	0.00	0.00	16.00	Children's Hospital	Prehospital Services	(412) 692-8720
5/31	8:00	030420	PALS	0.00	0.00	16.00	Jefferson Hospital	CCAC	(412) 237-2500
6/1	8:00	030418	PALS-R	0.00	0.00	8.00	Jefferson Hospital	CCAC	(412) 237-2500
6/3	8:00	030070	ACLS - R	0.00	0.00	8.00	Alle Kiski Center	Michael Gannon	(412) 359-3923
6/4	19:00	030290	Behavioral Emergencies	1.50	1.50	1.50	Valley Ambulance	MC Nash	(412) 749-7120
6/4	8:00	030071	PALS	0.00	0.00	16.00	Allegheny General	Michael Gannon	(412) 359-3923
6/5	7:30	030518	PALS	0.00	0.00	16.00	Mercy Hospital	Jim Blosser	(412) 232-5906
6/5	19:00	030411	SHHS ALS Skills Review			2.50	Jefferson Hospital	CCAC	(412) 237-2500
6/5	9:00	030412	Pediatrics: Recog./Mgmt Shock	1.00	1.00	1.00	Jefferson Hospital	CCAC	(412) 237-2500
6/7	8:00	030273	ACLS Refresher - Accelerated			6.00	Valley Ambulance	MC Nash	(412) 749-7120
6/11	11:00	030168	Emerg Resp to Terrorism Overview	2.00	2.00	2.00	Jeannete Hospital	Don Thoma	(724) 527-9341
6/11	8:00	030072	ACLS - R	0.00	0.00	8.00	Allegheny General	Michael Gannon	(412) 359-3923
6/16	9:00	030359	Bloodborne Pathogens (WPA)	2.50	2.50	2.50	Western PA Safety Council	Rob Lanious	(412) 856-5400
6/17	18:30	030162	Emer.Vehicle Driver Training	16.00	16.00	16.00	CCAC	CCAC	(412) 237-2500
6/17	8:00	030358	NSC - Auto External Defibrill	4.00	4.00	4.00	Western PA Safety Council	Rob Lanious	(412) 856-5400
6/18	8:00	030073	ACLS	0.00	0.00	16.00	Allegheny General	Michael Gannon	(412) 359-3923
6/18	8:00	030144	PALS-R	0.00	0.00	8.00	Medical Rescue Team So	Adella Mueller	(724) 356-7381
6/19	7:00	030500	ACLS	0.00	0.00	16.00	Mercy Hospital	Jim Blosser	(412) 232-5906
6/19	18:00	030151	Pre-Hospital Burn Class Condensed	2.00	2.00	2.00	BCCC	Brian Check	(724) 287-8711
6/20	8:00	030409	ACLS - R	0.00	0.00	8.00	Jefferson Hospital	CCAC	(412) 237-2500
6/23	7:00	030501	ACLS	0.00	0.00	16.00	Mercy Hospital	Jim Blosser	(412) 232-5906
6/23	7:30	030519	PALS	0.00	0.00	16.00	Mercy Hospital	Jim Blosser	(412) 232-5906
6/23	8:00	030074	ACLS	0.00	0.00	16.00	Allegheny General	Michael Gannon	(412) 359-3923
6/25	8:00	030075	ACLS	0.00	0.00	16.00	West Penn Hospital	Michael Gannon	(412) 359-3923
6/29	7:45	030324	PALS	0.00	0.00	16.00	Children's Hospital	Prehospital Service	(412) 692-8720

National Registry Exam Dates Set

EMSI will be administering the National Registry Paramedic exam on the following dates:

Written exam:

Thursday, April 3
2 p.m.
Center for Emergency Medicine
Closed - Deadline was February 28

Monday, May 19
2 p.m.
Center for Emergency Medicine
Applications accepted until Monday, April 14

Tuesday, June 24
9 a.m.
Mutual Aid Ambulance Service
Applications accepted from Monday, April 18 until Friday, May 16

Practical exam:

Friday, April 4
8:30 a.m.
Center for Emergency Medicine

Tuesday, May 20
8:30 a.m.
Center for Emergency Medicine

Tuesday, June 26
8:30 a.m.
Mutual Aid Ambulance Service

Please note that these exams are only available to candidates who are seeking their *initial* Pennsylvania paramedic certification.

For more information on the testing dates or to check for available testing slots, contact Scott Crawford, regional training coordinator, EMSI, at (412) 242-7322.

EMS Week Recognizes Commitment

EMS: Where it Matters Most is the theme of EMS Week 2003, which will be celebrated May 18-24. During this week, the commitment and dedication of the 750,000 providers nationwide who serve their communities will be recognized.

For more information on local activities to be planned during National EMS Week, contact Phil Stoner, EMSI executive director, at (412) 242-7322.

Upcoming PEHSC Meetings and Conferences Announced

The Pennsylvania Emergency Health Services Council (PEHSC) has announced several important meetings in the coming months. Mark your calendars now for the following:

Statewide EMS Recruitment Seminar . . . . .Saturday, April 5
State EMS Research Forum . . . . .Tuesday, May 20
State EMS Plan Review . . . . .Tuesday, June 17
PEHSC Conference . . . . .August 7-9, Lancaster

The PEHSC also has announced several conferences in the next several months. They include:

Sixth National Child Welfare Data Conference . . . . . .April 9-11, Arlington, VA

EMS Facilitator Workshops on National Guidelines
for Educating EMS Instructors
Sponsored by NAEMSE .April 25-27, Cleveland, OH

Fire-Rescue Med 2003 . . . . .May 3-7, Las Vegas, NV

Fire Expo 2003 . . . . .May 16-18, State Farm Show Complex

Elder Abuse Conference . . . . .May 27-30, Lake Tahoe, CA

National Emergency Number Association
Annual Conference . . . . .June 15-19, Denver, CO

For more information on these conferences or access to web sites on ongoing training sessions, contact EMSI at (412) 242-7322 or emsi04.org.

Appointments Announced

EMSI announces several new appointments for the region. They include:

Joe Byrnes
> Director, EMMCO East

Juliet Geiger, RN, MSN
> Director, Pennsylvania Trauma Systems Foundation

Grants for Communications Results Announced

The Pennsylvania Department of Health has announced the results of its Grants for Communications program.

EMSI's region will receive approximately $113,000 of the $1 million in grant money for communications awarded this year. Of that amount, $50,000 will be used to replace old equipment at the Eastern Regional dispatch center that used to be housed in Forbes Regional Hospital. The remaining $63,000 will be used to replace old equipment and improve coverage in Greene County.

Future grants, which can be up to three years in duration, will focus on the following priorities:

- Replacement of equipment with parts that are unavailable due to age.

- Replacement/additions of equipment where there are currently identified holes in the coverage afforded by the present equipment. This can include holes in coverage if services have to go outside their normal service area in response to a request for mutual aid.

- New technology.

For more information on the grants and their funding guidelines, contact Phil Stoner, executive director, EMSI, at (412) 242-7322.

Practical Skills Exam Schedule

The following is a list of first responder and EMT practical skills exams scheduled in the EMSI region during the coming months. Students must register in advance by calling EMSI at (412) 242-7322.

Monday, April 14
6:30 p.m.
Center for Emergency Medicine
Level: Emergency Medical Technician

Tuesday, April 15
6:30 p.m.
Center for Emergency Medicine (retest)
Level: Emergency Medical Technician

Monday, April 21
6:30 p.m..
IUP Keith Hall
Level: Emergency Medical Technician

6:30 p.m.
Jefferson VFD
Level: Emergency Medical Technician

Tuesday, April 22
6:30 p.m.
CCAC / VAC
Level: Emergency Medical Technician

Thursday, April 24
6:30 p.m.
Farmington VFD
Level: Emergency Medical Technician

6:30 p.m.
Slippery Rock University
Level: Emergency Medical Technician

Friday, April 25
9:00 a.m.
Western Area Vo Tech
Level: Emergency Medical Technician

Monday, April 28
6:30 p.m.
IUP Keith Hall (retest)
Level: Emergency Medical Technician

Tuesday, April 29
6:30 p.m.
CCAC / VAC
Level: Emergency Medical Technician

Thursday, May 1
6:30 p.m.
Slippery Rock University (retest)
Level: Emergency Medical Technician

6:30 p.m.
WCCC Youngwood
Level: First Responder

Wednesday, May 5
6:30 p.m.
Butler County Community College
Level: Emergency Medical Technician

Monday, May 12
6:30 p.m.
Fayette City VFD
Level: Emergency Medical Technician

Tuesday, May 13
6:30 p.m.
Smock VFD
Level: Emergency Medical Technician

Wednesday, May 14
6:30 p.m.
Butler Community College (retest)
Level: Emergency Medical Technician

Wednesday, May 21
6:30 p.m.
Armstrong Memorial Hospital
Level: Emergency Medical Technician

6:30 p.m.
Penn State Fayette
Level: Emergency Medical Technician

Tuesday, May 27
Noon
Connellsville High
Level: Emergency Medical Technician

6:30 p.m.
CCAC / VAC
Level: Emergency Medical Technician

Wednesday, May 28
6:30 p.m.
Armstrong Memorial (retest)
Level: Emergency Medical Technician

6:30 p.m.
Lawrence Co Learning Center
Level: Emergency Medical Technician

Thursday, May 29
6:30 p.m.
Butler County Community College
Level: Emergency Medical Technician

Friday, May 30
6:30 p.m.
Washington Hospital
Level: Emergency Medical Technician

Monday, June 2
6:30 p.m.
CCAC/ VAC
Level: Emergency Medical Technician

Tuesday, June 3
5:00 p.m.
Butler County Community College (retest)
Level: Emergency Medical Technician

Wednesday, June 4
6:30 p.m.
CCAC / VAC (retest)
Level: Emergency Medical Technician

6:30 p.m.
Lawrence Co Learning (retest)
Level: Emergency Medical Technician

Thursday, June 5
6:30 p.m.
Community College of Beaver
Level: Emergency Medical Technician

Monday, June 9
6:30 p.m.
CCAC / VAC
Level: Emergency Medical Technician

Thursday, June 12
6:30 p.m.
Community College of Beaver (retest)
Level: Emergency Medical Technician

Wednesday, June 18
6:30 p.m.
Mutual Aid Ambulance
Level: Emergency Medical Technician

Monday, June 23
6:30 p.m.
WCCC Youngwood
Level: Emergency Medical Technician

Wednesday, June 25
6:30 p.m.
Mon Valley EMS
Level: Emergency Medical Technician

Community Partnership Formed to Study AEDs in Rural Areas

Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) are a well known life saving treatment device in ambulances for patients suffering from cardiac arrest. Statistics show that for each minute that passes in cardiac arrest without a return to a normal rhythm, a victim's chance of survival drops by 10 percent. CPR coupled with rapid defibrillation using AEDs can significantly decrease the mortality rate.

For patients in rural areas, access to AEDs at critical moments is not always available. Because of this, there is a need to find a way to make AEDs accessible for individuals who treat patients.

According to a project abstract recently released, Pennsylvania ambulances treated more than 15,000 patients for cardiac arrest in 2001. AEDs were used to treat less than 40 percent of the rural residents in cardiac arrest. Rapid identification of cardiac arrest, immediate notification of emergency services personnel through a 911 center, and administration of electrical counter shock can increase the survival rate.

A statewide community partnership has been formed to identify rural communities at risk for patients experiencing a cardiac arrest and to evaluate the current available resources. This partnership consists of the Department of Health's state EMS office, the Pennsylvania Office of Rural Health (PORH), the Hospital and Health System Association of Pennsylvania (HAP), and the regional EMS councils. This group has been charged with analyzing EMS patient care reports, vital statistics, and census information in order to make these identifications.

Once the evaluation and identification has been made, first responders and community members will be enlisted through the EMS regions, the health districts, and community health involvement partnerships to determine the best locations to place AEDs, as well as the local lead for the AED program. Training will be provided through partnerships with the American Heart Association, the National Safety Council, and other resources such as hospitals and ambulance services. Locations of AEDs will be communicated to 911 centers and evaluation of use will be linked with the EMS service.

In the end, the initiative hopes to reach the following goals:
- To make AEDs available within a 10 minute time frame for patients experiencing cardiac arrest.
- To identify rural areas with a high probability of patients suffering cardiac arrest and develop a system with community stakeholders to increase the likelihood that an AED will be available and used by trained individuals.
- To provide an AED with an AED medical director to all rural ambulance services with an emergency response area.
- To place AEDs in targeted public areas where large numbers of people gather or where people who are at high risk of heart attacks live.
- To match AED training opportunities with resources in the community.

For more information on the status of this project, contact the EMSI office at (412) 242-7322.

Bioterrorism Grant Components Being Processed

The Pennsylvania Department of Health is currently processing the contracts section on grants for bioterrorism. The five components of these grants are as follows:

Jane's Chem-Bio Handbook. This handbook will be distributed so each ambulance has a copy.

Learning Management System. Equipment will be purchased including 100 sound cards for services that have computers unequipped to transmit voice, and three SoundForge systems for entities that wish to develop content for the DOH system.

Hospital Map Book. This book is being redone on more durable paper and will include all of the hospitals in Region 13 as well as certain hospitals on the periphery of the region. More information will be included for mass casualty incident preparedness.

Bio-Terry Books. These books will be supplied to all Medical Command centers in the region for easy access to information on bioterrorism incidents.

Evaluation. An evaluation of services' bioterrorism capabilities and needs will be performed.

For more information on any of these grant components, contact EMSI at (412) 242-7322.

QUICK MED-CLAIMS

Ambulance Billing Service

Don't Hesitate to Call!

Let QUICK-MED-CLAIMS get results for your service. We have a proven track record. Our experienced staff provides complete billing services, including the processing of primary and secondary insurances, follow-up patient billing and the preparation of accounts for collection, following the guidelines of our compliance program. Claims are submitted electronically to Medicare and Medicaid.

QUICK-MED-CLAIMS *does the* **billing** *for you!*

QUICK-MED-CLAIMS — 1-800-901-1155 or (412) 655-8950
PO Box 18210, Pittsburgh, PA 15236

EMSI Board of Directors • 2002 - 2003

Officers
- William E. Groft, EMT-P, President
- Michael Coleman, DO, Vice President
- Mary Ann Scott, RN, BSN, Treasurer
- Douglas Garretson, BA, NREMT-P, Secretary
- Richard F. Kunkle, MD, FACEP, Past President

EMS Council Representatives
- Russell Chiodo, Beaver
- Mike Coleman, DO, Butler
  Cataldo Corrado, MD, Fayette
  Rick Huff, Washington
  George Laskey, Westmoreland
  Jim Sadler, Indiana
- Mary Ann Scott, Allegheny
- Brian Shaw, Lawrence
  Doug Young, Greene

County Government Representatives
  Chief Bob Full, Allegheny
  Rod Groomes, MD, Armstrong
  Bernie Smith, Indiana
  Sandra Smythe, Westmoreland
  Walt Vincinelly, Fayette
  Thomas White, Lawrence
- Linda Zidek, RN, Washington

Directors at-Large
  Joseph Akif
  Kay Jo Fischer
  Richard G. Fuller, MEd, EMT-P
- Doug Garretson, NREMT-P
- William E. Groft, EMT-P
- Ed Heltman
  Brian Kircher
  Harry Meredith
  Bradley D. Penrod, AAE
- B.J. Pino
  Rodney Rohrer
- Ron Roth, MD
  Patrick M. Sherin
  Edward Stevenson
  Don Swayze
  Jim Withee

- *Indicates Executive Committee*

EMSI Staff E-Mail Addresses

Gloria Arrington, Accountant
garrington@emsi04.org

Jessika Brown, Secretary
jbrown@emsi04.org

Scott Crawford, Regional Training Coordinator
scrawford@emsi04.org

Pam Dixon, Data Processor
pdixon@emsi04.org

Kurt Henkel, Regional Training Coordinator
khenkel@emsi04.org

Linda Kovac, Con-Ed/Training Program Specialist
lkovac@emsi04.org

Kevin A. Lipscomb, Assistant Executive Director
klipscomb@emsi04.org

Louise Myers, Data Processor
lmyers@emsi04.org

Joe Ponko, Medical Specialist
jponko@emsi04.org

Bruce Sivak, Prehospital Service Specialist
bsivak@emsi04.org

Philip Stoner, Executive Director
pstoner@emsi04.org

Nancy Theilacker, Secretary
ntheilacker@emsi04.org

w w w . e m s i 0 4 . o r g

EMSI Intercom

MDC Meetings Scheduled

EMSI's Regional Medical Direction Committee (MDC) has set the following meeting schedule for 2003:

Friday, June 13   Location TBA

Wednesday, September 10   Location TBA

Friday, December 5   Westmoreland Regional Hospital

Meetings begin at noon and include lunch. Meetings are open to all ALS service medical directors, medical command facility medical directors, emergency department medical directors, and trauma center medical directors in the EMSI region.

Anyone interested in having their facility host a meeting should contact Joseph Ponko, EMSI medical specialist, at (412) 242-7322 or jponko@ emsi04.org.

EMS Day at Kennywood

Join in the fun of Kennywood for EMS Day on Sunday, June 8. Kennywood has added a new ride this year – King Kahuna. You'll flip for it as you check out their newest themed area, Volcano Valley. Kennywood has also added new shows, new games, new food stands, and a few more surprises. If you haven't been to Kennywood in a while – its time to come back!

Watch your mail for a brochure and order form or call EMSI at (412) 242-7322 for details.

To contact EMSI call toll-free at 1-866-827-EMSI or visit www.emsi04.org

EMSI

Emergency Medical Service Institute

**221 Penn Avenue
Suite 2500
Pittsburgh, PA 15221**

(412) 242-7322