

Brent D. Sherard, M.D., M.P.H., Director and State Health Officer

Governor Dave Freudenthal

MEMORANDUM

To: Ambulance Services

Governor's Appointed EMS Advisory Committee

Physician Task Force on Prehospital Care

Fire Chiefs

Trauma Coordinators

From: EMS Office

Date: November 9, 2007

Subject: Office Updates

Recertification materials for those with expiration dates of 12/31/2007 are due into the EMS Office by December 1st in order to insure that your certification does not lapse. Individuals needing to take the recertification examination need to contact the EMS Office prior to coming to the Department to test. Individuals who do not recertify by the end of December cannot function in an EMS capacity until they have renewed their certification. Likewise all ambulance business licenses are due for renewal in December as well.

Spring 2008 EMT-Basic classes are presently being scheduled for the following communities: Burlington, Casper College-Fire Science Program, Cheyenne-LCCC, Cody, Evansville, Green River, Hawk Springs, Lander, Rock Springs, Sheridan, Ten Sleep, Thermopolis, Torrington, Wamsutter, and Wright. EMT-Intermediate classes are scheduled for the following communities: Evanston, Douglas, Newcastle, and Sheridan.

The Physician Task Force on Prehospital Care and the Board of Medicine several months ago approved the use of Zofran for EMT-Intermediates and Paramedics. Zofran will replace Phenegran which has been removed from the list of authorized medications for EMS providers. Phenegran should be removed from all ambulances. A copy of the recommended Zofran guidelines will be sent to ambulance services by November 16th. Training in the use of Zofran will be the responsibility of the physician medical director for the ambulance service.

Doug Schmitz, MD has been appointed as the State EMS Medical Director by Brent D. Sherard, M.D., M.P.H., Director and State Health Officer for the Wyoming Department of Health. Dr. Sherard has previously filled in as medical director on an as needed basis. Dr. Schmitz will be working with the medical directors of all ambulance services with the hopes of increasing the physician involvement with



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their local ambulances. The EMS Office has received funding through the Office of Rural Health to present two EMS medical directors training programs over the next year. Dr. Schmitz will be coordinating these one day training programs. Further information will be available as the classes are scheduled.

The Wyoming Retirement System presented a report to the Joint Labor, Health, and Social Services Interim Committee on the study by Buck Consultant on the potential for the development of an EMT Retirement Bill. Several options were discussed. The EMS Office presented results of their study on recruitment and retention issues facing EMS. As a result, the Committee has instructed the Legislative Service Office to draft a bill that will be presented to the Committee at their December meeting for review and consideration for the 2008 Legislative Session. Information packets on the studies have been sent to all ambulance services. The EMS Office encourages ambulance services to contact either WAPP or WAEMSA for further information on the EMT Retirement Bill.

The EMS Office has submitted an exception budget request to be considered for the upcoming biennium. The request includes much needed funding to provide for increased training support, equipment to ambulance services, upgrading the EMS and Trauma Registry software, support for EMS conferences, scholarships for EMT training, support to hospitals, and stipends to physicians who serve as medical directors for our ambulance services. At this time, it is unknown if these requests will be accepted or not.

The EMS Office has received several inquiries concerning the use of EMTs in hospitals or clinics to assist with flu immunizations. This issue was addressed by the Physician's Task Force on Prehospital Care and the Board of Medicine in 2006. It has been recommended that EMT-Intermediates and Paramedics, with the proper training and medical oversight, may be used by facilities to provide assistance in the event of a pandemic or in the case of staff shortages. The decision whether to use EMS personnel in these instances is left to the individual facility. EMS providers scope of practice are under the EMS Rules and Regulations through their physician advisory groups and the Board of Medicine. They are not part of the Board of Nursing or the Nurse Practice Act.

The EMS staff has started preparations for the 38th Wyoming Trauma Conference. This years' conference will once again be held at the Little America Hotel and Resort in Cheyenne. The dates for the conference are August 21- 24, 2007. Early discounted registation and further conference information will be forthcoming. If you have items or speakers you would like to see considered for this years' conference please forward the information to the EMS Office.