

Oregon Emergency Medical Services and Trauma Systems Program UPDATE November 2007

EMS PROGRAMS

The office of the Oregon Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and Trauma System Program is open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday – Friday in Suite 465A of the Portland State Office Building, 800 NE Oregon Avenue, Portland.

New Rules and Regulations

A revised version of Oregon Administrative Rules, Chapter 333, Division 265, Emergency Medical Technicians, is being proposed. The draft revisions are available on our Web page at http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/ems/div265_notice_rule.pdf or you can call our office at 971-673-0520 for a copy.

Public hearings on the proposed rules will be held as follows:

- La Grande Fire Department, 1806 Cove Avenue, LaGrande, Nov. 26 at 1 p.m.;
- Lane Community College, 4000 E 30, Room 309, Eugene, Nov. 29 at 1 p.m.; and
- Portland State Office Building, 800 NE Oregon Street, Conference Room 1A, Portland, Dec. 7 at 9 a.m.

Written comments may be submitted to:

Oregon Emergency Medical Services and Trauma Systems
800 NE Oregon Street
Suite 465A
Portland, OR 97232

Comments also may be faxed to 971-673-0555, attention Bob Leopold. All comments must be received no later than 5 p.m. Dec. 11, 2007.

State EMS Committee

The State EMS Committee will meet Dec. 7 at 1:30 p.m. in Room 1A of the Portland State Office Building, 800 NE Oregon Street, Portland.

EMT Practical Test Schedule

Dec. 8, 2007 - EMT-Basic Practical at College of Emergency Services.
Dec. 15, 2007 - EMT-Basic Practical at Portland Community College.
Jan. 5, 2008 - Paramedic Practical at Portland Community College;
the application and fee for this exam is due by Dec. 7, 2007, to EMS and Trauma Systems.

Activities

Continuing Education for School Nurses

On Nov. 3, 2007, the EMS for Children Program in collaboration with the National Association of School Nurses sponsored a continuing education course for school nurses at Clackamas Community College. The course "Disaster Preparedness for School Nurses" was attended by 36 school nurses from Washington and Oregon. This course was designed to provide nurses with the tools for coordinating their school staff and students, and to coordinate with EMS personnel in the event of a disaster. The course was the second in a series for school nurses that the EMS for Children Program is sponsoring through its Federal State Partnership Grant.

The EMS for Children Program is offering educational grants in the amount of \$2,500 to provide Pediatric Education for Prehospital Professionals, Pediatric Advanced Life Support or Prehospital Pediatric Care courses. Agencies are encouraged to apply as a group to permit greater access to this training. All applications must be submitted by **Nov. 23, 2007**. Notification of awards will be made on **Dec. 10, 2007**. All courses must be completed by **Feb. 29, 2008**. For information call Philip Engle at 971- 673-0525 or e-mail him at philip.p.Engle@state.or.us.

For the month of October 2007, 11 new ambulances were licensed, 28 national background checks and 432 Oregon background checks on potential EMT candidates were completed. The EMS and Trauma

Systems staff received 20 new complaints, opened 12 new investigations, and placed two certificate holders on probation.

Ritu Sahni, M.D., M.P.H., medical director for the Oregon EMS and Trauma Systems, was re-elected to the National Association of EMS Physicians (NAEMSP®) Board of Directors. This national organization is made up of physicians and other professionals partnering to provide leadership and foster excellence to improve in- and out-of-hospital emergency care. Congratulations Dr. Sahni. Dr. Sahni also serves on the Board of Directors for the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT).

TOPOFF 4

Liz Morgan and Susie Werner participated in Topoff 4. Topoff, which stands for Top Officials, was a joint exercise with the federal government, and several state and local governments. Here is an article about the Oregon Public Health Division's participation.
http://www.dhs.state.or.us/tools/news/staff_news/staff_news.html#2

Board of Medical Examiners Emergency Medical Technicians Advisory Committee Information

The Board of Medical Examiners (BME) Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) Advisory Committee met on Nov. 2, 2007. The EMT Advisory Committee meetings are held quarterly at the Board's offices at Crown Plaza, 1500 SW First Ave, Suite 620, Portland. The next meeting is Friday, Feb. 1, 2008, at 9 a.m.

The EMT Advisory Committee reviewed the impact of adding "fentanyl" to the scope of practice for EMT-Intermediates. The concern is that the scope of practice allows for the use of fentanyl transdermally (Duragesic), which is indicated only for chronic pain. The committee recommended that EMT-Intermediates' scope of practice be changed to "Analgesics for Acute Pain" instead of the current "Analgesics," rather than try to list all the possible routes of administration for each medication.

On the issue of adding blood glucose testing to the First Responders scope of practice, the BME Emergency Medical Technicians Advisory Committee did not support this request. Three issues were identified

that could cause concerns if this scope of practice was allowed for First Responders. One is training issues (First Responder training is a Department of Transportation (DOT) curriculum; it is not within the Oregon Department of Human Services-EMS purview and it would be difficult to ensure that there is appropriate training); another issue is whether there would be a benefit to patient care (what would First Responders do with the results); and the last issue, the lack of documentation of evidence that this change would be beneficial (there are no other states that have First Responders doing this or any literature to support this practice).

EMS Medical Directors Listserv

The EMS medical directors listserv is only for Oregon EMS supervising physicians. Oregon supervising physicians listserv OregonEMSdocs@jcems.net sign up is at http://jcems.net/mailman/listinfo/oregonemsdocs_jcems.net.

FUTURE CONFERENCES

A Prehospital and Hospital Emergency Department Conference on MI and Stroke Care Systems is planned for May 30, 2008, in Eugene. The organizers want to gather EMS supervising physicians (medical directors), EMS agency managers, cardiologists, neurologists, and hospital ED managers/administrators to discuss systems to enhance prehospital/hospital ED systems regarding MI and stroke care.

The 2008 Oregon EMS Conference is scheduled in Bend Oct. 10-12, 2008. These dates conflict with the Oregon EMS for Children (EMSC) Conference that was already scheduled for the same weekend. The EMSC Program plans to sponsor some training at the 2008 EMS Conference in Bend and is considering a spring 2009 EMSC Conference. (More information on both the Oregon EMS Conference and EMSC activities will be in future updates.)

A spring EMS Medical Director's Forum is being planned for Apr. 10 and 11, 2008. The National Association of EMS Physicians will conduct a one-day Medical Director Course on Thursday, Apr. 10, 2008, in Eugene as part of the Medical Director's Forum. This course will be an overview course for physicians who are new or have

recently taken on this responsibility. A Supervising Physician's Forum will be held on the following day, Friday, Apr. 11, 2008. This will permit EMS medical directors to receive updates and exchange information. Please contact Ritu Sahni, M.D., M.P.H., at 971-673-0631 or e-mail him at ritu.sahni@state.or.us for details of this conference.

A fall 2008 Supervising Physician's Forum is scheduled in Bend on Friday, Oct. 10, 2008, as part of the 2008 Oregon EMS Conference.

Trauma Update

Meetings:

These Area Trauma Advisory Board (ATAB) meetings were held on the following dates:

- The ATAB 7 meeting was held Nov. 14, 2007, in Bend.
- The ATAB 3 meeting was held Nov. 14, 2007, in Springfield.
- The ATAB 1 Sag System Audit Group met Nov. 13, 2007, at Legacy Emanuel and the Tag Trauma Audit Group met Nov. 13 at Oregon Health & Science University.

Surveys

Trauma-site surveys are scheduled for Dec. 11 and 12, 2007, at Samaritan Albany General Hospital; Samaritan Lebanon Community Hospital; West Valley Hospital in Dallas; and Silverton Hospital in Silverton.

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Promoting Physical Activity and Healthy Eating Among Oregon's Youth

Childhood obesity is a looming public health crisis that has crept up on us through the cumulative changes in our life style and our environment. These changes affect our patterns of physical activity and nutrition. The holidays can make achieving healthy goals even more difficult. For a special report on child obesity please see the following Web site:

http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/pan/docs/Child_obesity_Rpt.pdf

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