

HIGHLIGHTS of the
Idaho Emergency Medical Services **Physician Commission** (EMSPC)
November 16, 2012 Meeting

➤ **February meeting DAY changed to Wednesday, February 6, 2013.**

➤ **Medical Supervision / Annual Agency Inspection**

In an effort to stimulate discussion about medical supervision and discover areas that need support or further education the Commission requested that the Bureau include the following questions during the annual agency license visit. The questions will be sent to the agencies with their renewal application prior to the inspection date.

- What are the challenges you have experienced with your medical supervision or medical supervision plan?
- Show us how you track credentialing of your personnel. Please provide several examples.

➤ **Clarification of September 14, 2012, position statement regarding new law:
Section 5 of Idaho Code § 33-1625. YOUTH ATHLETES –
CONCUSSION AND HEAD INJURY GUIDELINES AND
REQUIREMENTS:**

(5) An athlete may be returned to play once the athlete is evaluated and authorized to return by a qualified health care professional who is trained in the evaluation and management of concussions. For the purposes of this section, "qualified health care professional" means and includes any one (1) of the following who is trained in the evaluation and management of concussions:

- (a) A physician or physician assistant licensed under chapter 18, title 54, Idaho Code;
- (b) An advanced practice nurse licensed under section 54-1409, Idaho Code; or
- (c) A licensed health care professional trained in the evaluation and management of concussions who is supervised by a directing physician who is licensed under chapter 18, title 54, Idaho Code.

The position of the EMS Physician Commission is that the Scope of Practice does not allow EMS providers to authorize “return to play” following the performance of any assessment.

This position statement was specifically responding to the concussion law recently passed. The intent was to make it clear that EMS providers are not included in the “qualified health care professionals” “who are trained in the evaluation and management of concussions.” Furthermore, EMS providers do not have training or authority to declare any player fit for return to play after assessment of any injury; that is up to the coach, athletic trainer, or on scene physician. EMS providers perform the skills in their scope of practice and determine whether a player needs to be transported to a hospital for further evaluation and treatment. They do not authorize return to play. Commissioners felt the statement was correct as stated in the September minutes and hope this clarification will be beneficial.

➤ **Clarification of September 14, 2012, Wildland Fire & Other Planned Deployment topic in the minutes and the Highlights**

The Bureau of EMS & Preparedness has received numerous responses to the email that was recently distributed throughout the state regarding medical supervision and the ability to provide EMS as a licensed provider. The EMS Physician Commission (EMSPC) met and worked together with the Bureau to compile a more detailed, comprehensive summary of the current requirements to safely provide EMS in Idaho. You can review a copy of this document entitled *Providing EMS in Idaho* by visiting the Bureau or EMSPC homepage at www.IdahoEMS.org.