

HIGHLIGHTS of the
Idaho Emergency Medical Services **Physician Commission** (EMSPC)
November 15, 2013 Meeting

➤ **“Credentialing – What You Need to Know”** document is attached and posted on website

➤ **Statewide Protocol Rollout - *The Commission strongly desires feedback***

The PDF is posted on the EMSPC website at www.emspc.dhw.idaho.gov .

Medical directors wishing to adopt the EMSPC Statewide Protocols for their agency’s use should date and sign the cover sheet and submit a copy of it to the Bureau of EMS & Preparedness to include in their agency record. Email to EMSAgencyLicensure@dhw.idaho.gov or fax 208-334-4015

Any desired changes must be approved by the Commission. The Protocol Subcommittee will meet on February 6th to discuss the feedback received and start work on updates for a new version which will be available by July, 2014. Replacement pages with the updates will be made available to insert into the existing booklets.

The Idaho EMSPC Statewide Protocols & Procedures may be copied for non-commercial use and training purposes. Additional copies of the tear proof booklets may be purchased for cost from the Bureau. Keep in mind an updated version will be available by July, 2014.

If an agency wants to make changes to the EMSPC protocols for their own use, then the protocols would no longer be endorsed by the Commission. The EMSPC copy write would be removed and the protocols would be the sole responsibility of the agency medical director.

➤ **Spinal Immobilization**

The Idaho EMS Physician Commission moved to support the “EMS Spinal Precautions and the Use of the Long Board” Position Statement from the National Association of EMS Physicians and American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma. This document is posted on the website.

➤ **2014-1 EMSPC Standards Manual**

The draft 2014-1 EMSPC Standards Manual and Summary of Changes are posted on the website.

➤ **Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival (CARES) Registry**

EMS agencies and hospitals are encouraged to submit data to the CARES Registry.

➤ **Time-Sensitive Emergency (TSE) System of Care for Idaho Legislation**

Please see the Frequently Asked Questions, Executive Summary, and other information regarding this important work on the TSE website: www.tse.idaho.gov



IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH & WELFARE

C. L. "BUTCH" OTTER – Governor
RICHARD M. ARMSTRONG – Director

WAYNE DENNY – Bureau Chief
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AND PREPAREDNESS
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, Idaho 83720-0036
PHONE 1-877-554-3367 FAX 208-334-4015

Shipping/Physical Address (FedEX/UPS/DHL/Walk in only)
650 W State St, Suite B-17, Boise, ID 83702

December 16, 2013

Subject: Credentialing- What You Need to Know

Idaho EMS,

Earlier this year the EMS Physician Commission (EMSPC) asked us to explore the personnel credentialing practices used by EMS agencies during our annual site visit. Our Field Coordinators discovered during their site visits that credentialing is a sometimes misunderstood topic. In that light, we would like to offer a brief description of credentialing.

In order for someone to legally provide EMS in Idaho, the person must:

- 1) Hold a current EMS license issued by the State of Idaho;
- 2) Be affiliated with and authorized to act by an Idaho licensed EMS agency; and
- 3) Be **Credentialed** and supervised by an Idaho licensed physician medical director.

The first two elements (licensing and affiliation) are well understood, but credentialing deserves further exploration. Credentialing is the EMS agency process where the individual is permitted (credentialed) by the medical director. Credentialing includes verifying licensure, affiliation, qualifications, proficiencies and completion of the agency orientation. Credentialing is not “all or nothing” as a medical director can limit or remove an individual provider’s permission (credential) to practice specific skills or interventions under the medical director’s supervision.

Given the diversity that exists in EMS agencies, the credentialing processes tend to vary between agencies. The credentialing process used for each agency should be described in the agency medical supervision plan (MSP). Typically, the agency administrator and medical director will collaborate to establish an agency’s credentialing process. One process that is commonly used includes the agency administrator facilitating the credentialing process with the medical director maintaining oversight and ultimately, authorizing the provider to practice.

The following are some of the questions about credentialing that we have encountered:

1) Q. Isn't the letter I get from the state with my renewed license considered credentialing?

No. The agency and/or medical director should verify the license issued by the Bureau as a part of the credentialing process but it does not take the place of reviewing the qualifications and proficiencies of a provider.

2) Q. How do I know if I've been credentialed by my medical director?

A. Ask your agency administrator or medical director to learn more about your agency's credentialing process. Some agencies use a formal process to credential their providers; others use a less formal approach so it may be taking place behind the scenes.

3) Q. How often should I be credentialed by my medical director?

A. The EMSPC recommends that each provider be credentialed annually, but there is no frequency specified in rule.

4) Q. In order to credential me, does my medical director have to watch me do each individual skill in my scope of practice?

A. Your agency and medical director will determine the specific process they will use to verify the skill competencies of their affiliated EMS personnel. The process used to verify skill competencies should be described in your agency's MSP.

5) Q. When my agency gets a new medical director, do I need to be re-credentialed?

A. Yes, credentialing is specific to each individual medical director.

6) Q. Who can we contact to answer questions or find resources regarding credentialing?

A. The EMSPC's Standards Manual and Medical Supervision Development Guide provide further detail about credentialing and provide sample forms. These can be found on their website at www.emspc.dhw.idaho.gov If you have questions please call us at (208)-334-4000.



Wayne Denny
Bureau Chief