



Monroe-Livingston Region Program Agency


Division of Prehospital Medicine, University of Rochester

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To: All EMS Providers and Agencies

From: Jeremy T. Cushman, MD, MS, EMT-P 
Regional Medical Director

Date: August 3, 2015

Re: Advisory 15-09: NYS DOH BLS Protocol Update

The New York State Department of Health (DOH) has scheduled several webinars as a platform to provide their 2015 BLS Protocol Update to address a statewide Hemorrhage Control Protocol and the Suspected Spinal Injury Protocol. Per the DOH, EMS agencies need to ensure that their staff has the appropriate and required training to function at their agency.

Attached is the “DOH 2015 Frequently Asked Questions” released by the DOH outlining the training and the “Scheduled Webcast Sessions NYS BEMS 2015 BLS Protocol Update” webinar schedule and sign up information. The DOH indicates additional access to the webinar will be available in the future but have provided no other details.

This office has not been provided with any additional information from the state regarding this rollout. It is our understanding that the protocol related to the hemorrhage control portion of the training is NOT in place and still requires state approval scheduled for December – fortunately it appears this training and the protocol are consistent with what we have been doing for nearly five years. As this office has now just seen the final Spinal Injuries Protocol which was shared during the webinar that was terminated prematurely because of technological issues, we have not yet been able to confirm with our REMAC the use of this protocol and update our MLREMS Standards of Care. Further, we have not had an opportunity to assure both providers in our system as well as our receiving facilities are knowledgeable of this significant protocol change.

As a result, I am asking all agencies to begin training as directed by the DOH with plans to complete all training no later than October 31, 2015. However, I am asking that the Spinal Injuries Protocol NOT be utilized in practice until such time as we are able to include it in the MLREMS Standards of Care, alert and educate all receiving hospitals, and assure the training needs of the providers in our region are met. A separate Advisory will be issued when providers may commence utilizing the new Suspected Spinal Injuries Protocol if trained and approved by their Agency Medical Director.

Please review this information, and with any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our office, although understand that questions regarding the educational rollout will be referred to the DOH as our region is not responsible for the content.



2015 NYS BLS Protocol Update Frequently Asked Question

1. What will the webinar include?
 - a. Updated hemorrhage control protocol information
 - b. Suspected spinal injury protocol information
2. How do I watch the webinar?
 - a. You need to register through WebEx using the links provided for the date of the webinar you wish to attend.
 - b. The webinar can be watched on computers, tablets, smartphones, etc. Any device that has an internet connection with the required software can be used.
 - c. The audio for the webinar will be broadcast through Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP). This means you do not need to call-in using a telephone connection. The audio will come through your devices sound system, i.e. computer speakers, Bluetooth device, etc.
3. What if I have technical problems?
 - a. WebEx provides support for technical problems. <http://www.webex.com>
4. What is the deadline for providers to obtain the update?
 - a. October 30th, 2015
5. What if I can't make any of the live webinars?
 - a. The current plan is to record one of the webinars and provide that to the EMS community. Providers will have a registration link for the recorded version, just as they did for the live sessions. Technology permitting, we will have the recorded version link disseminated in late August. These providers will also be able to take the online quiz and obtain course materials.
6. Will the Practical Skills Exam change?
 - a. Not at this time. There may be a future change, but the process is being reviewed. We also want to assure we are as close to the National Standards as possible with regards to education and testing.
7. When will the written certification exam change?
 - a. All course testing in September 2015 will have the appropriate changes.
 - b. There will be progressive changes over the next year.

8. What about students who take the certification exam in August? What should they do?
 - a. They should not watch or review the protocol update information until after they take their certification exams. Then, they should register and watch the recorded version. This should reduce any misunderstandings during the certification examinations.

9. Can a group of people watch the webinar together?
 - a. Absolutely!! Each person still needs to register for the webinar through WebEx so we have their information. After the webinar, they can log on and take the quiz. The quiz will be available for 2 weeks after the webinar they registered for.

10. Can the skills portion be done immediately after the webinar?
 - a. Yes. Many entities are doing this.
 - b. The skills component can be done in groups of up to 6 providers with an instructor overseeing the group.
 - c. **This is not a testing station!** These skills sessions should be treated as a learning experience where students and instructors alike work together through different scenarios to get use to the new skills. Everyone should take turns role-playing different tasks of the skills. There is no need to “evaluate” a single student in a one-on-one, testing type of environment. The skills sheets are to be used to meet the psychomotor objectives of the training.

11. Who is required to teach the skills component?
 - a. The skills component must be overseen/taught by a NYS CLI or CIC.
 - b. Agencies who are in the CME Recertification Program should reach out to the CIC they are affiliated with for the program to determine if they can assist in the training.
 - c. Your Regional EMS Council can also assist in providing you with potential instructors within your area.
 - d. Course sponsors, who provide certification courses, are also an excellent source to find an instructor.

12. Who is responsible to assure providers obtain the training?
 - a. Ultimately, EMS agencies need to assure that their staff have the appropriate and required training to function within their agency.
 - b. If a provider has not completed the training by October 30th, 2015, the agency will decide whether or not the provider can operate within their agency.
 - c. Agencies need to have a copy of the CME certificate or the providers email from WebEx with their quiz results and their skills check-sheet in the provider’s personnel file.

13. Will there be CME’s available for the training?

- a. Yes. The current plan is to provide each provider with a certificate of completion for 3 hours of CME.
- b. If the provider does not receive their certificate, they can use their email from WebEx that shows their quiz results as proof of attendance and receive the 3 hours.
- c. The certificates will be emailed to the providers in the weeks following the webinars.
- d. The CME's can be used for Preparatory or Trauma core content, as well as Additional Hours.
- e. If needed, the CIC number of 4117 can be utilized for documentation purposes.

14. Is there state funding for this training?

- a. No. This is a protocol update and not a certification course. So, therefore, there is no legislatively approved funds available.
- b. Agencies can utilize BEMS reimbursement dollars from training and certification of their providers to help pay for any training expenses.
- c. The CME Recertification Program funding can also be utilized.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew G. Johnson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Andrew G. Johnson, Deputy Director
Bureau of Emergency Medical Services
Education and Certification

Scheduled Webcast Sessions

NYS BEMS 2015 BLS Protocol Update

If a password is required for log-in, use: spinal2015

Choose which date you want to attend and click on the corresponding link.
Course reference materials will be uploaded to the session prior to their start.

NYS Bureau of EMS invites you to participate as an attendee in the following online training session:

Topic: NYS 2015 BLS Protocol Update

Host: Andrew Johnson

Date: Thursday, July 30, 2015

Time: 7:00 pm, Eastern Daylight Time (New York, GMT-04:00)

Session Number: Not Available

Registration password: This session does not require a registration password.

To register for this training session

Go to <https://meetny.webex.com/meetny/k2/j.php?MTID=ta80df5c00e471e731b03d12db026f87d> and register.

Date: Wednesday, August 5, 2015

Time: 7:00 pm, Eastern Daylight Time (New York, GMT-04:00)

To register for this training session

Go to <https://meetny.webex.com/meetny/k2/j.php?MTID=t9d5dbaf835ee730f38a53456774136c3> and register.

Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2015

Time: 10:00 am, Eastern Daylight Time (New York, GMT-04:00)

To register for this training session

Go to <https://meetny.webex.com/meetny/k2/j.php?MTID=t6c4a38340e60fb40a7323705840cfe3a> and register.

Date: Friday, August 14, 2015

Time: 1:00 pm, Eastern Daylight Time (New York, GMT-04:00)

To register for this training session

Go to <https://meetny.webex.com/meetny/k2/j.php?MTID=t57abfc17c64cbe3ace0f05ce3f751311> and register.

Date: Monday, August 17, 2015

Time: 6:00 pm, Eastern Daylight Time (New York, GMT-04:00)

To register for this training session

Go to <https://meetny.webex.com/meetny/k2/j.php?MTID=t8e4776bd0581874ef4baa101a340b36d> and register.