

Happy Spring! Everything is in bloom and the boys of summer are once again playing America's game. It has been a long, hard winter for many in our state. Even though the warm sunshine and improving weather is a welcome change, our hearts go out to those that have been suffering as a result of recent flooding and mud/rockslides.

This month I would like to focus on some reminders. I have heard from many of you that frequent reminders are essential to you for consistent practice. I will try to keep that in mind and communicate information repeatedly. If the reminders are too much or not enough, please let me know. I welcome your feedback; that is how we improve.

Certification is a personal responsibility. It is not the job of OEMS (or your employer) to let you know when your certification expires or what continuing education you need to recertify. Beginning in July 2014, CIS began generating automatic email messages as a courtesy reminder that your certification would be expiring in 30/60/90 day intervals. Your expiration date is noted on your certification card. I know the recertification policies are not yet final, but recertification requirements have been (and will continue to be) posted on this website for your review and use. When the new policies are finalized, we will communicate that information to you. Your patience and cooperation are appreciated.

In accordance with 64CSR48 Section 6.4.a, you can begin the recertification process anytime within the last year of your certification period. Your recertification packet is to be submitted no later than 90 days from your expiration date. For EMTs, the expiration date is 12/31. Therefore, recertification packets should be submitted no later than 10/1. For paramedics, the expiration date is 3/31. Therefore, recertification packets should be submitted no later than 1/1. OEMS does accept recertification packets submitted less than 90 days from your expiration date, but OEMS cannot make any assurances that your recertification will be completed and that you will have an updated card by your expiration date if packets are not submitted on a timely basis as required.

Another certification requirement that folks seem to have forgotten about is drivers. The National Highway Transportation Safety Board (NHTSA) and the Chemical Safety Board mandate training for drivers of emergency vehicles due to incidents that have caused injury or death to EMS personnel. 64CSR48 Section 6.7 is all about Emergency Medical Vehicle Operator.

6.7.a. Certification Requirements. The applicant shall:

- 6.7.a.1 Apply in a format prescribed by the Commissioner;
- 6.7.a.2 Submit the appropriate fees as described in subsection 6.9 of this rule;
- 6.7.a.3 Be 18 years of age;
- 6.7.a.4 Possess valid CPR certification prescribed by the Commissioner;
- 6.7.a.5 Successfully complete hazardous materials awareness training meeting Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) 1910.12 requirements or greater;
- 6.7.a.6 Successfully complete first aid training meeting United States Department of Labor, OSHA 1910.266, appendix B requirements or greater;
- 6.7.a.7 Apply for and be cleared by background checks as specified by the Commissioner, including, but not limited to: federal and state criminal background checks, a child support status check, sexual offender registry check, and a check of federal and state medical practice exclusions or restrictions;
- 6.7.a.8 Disclose any limitations or exclusions by an EMS agency, EMS Medical Director or any other healthcare profession certification or licensing authority in any state. The limitations or exclusions may be considered by the Commissioner prior to issuance of certification credentials;
- 6.7.a.9 Possess and maintain a valid driver's license;
- 6.7.a.10 Not have been convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, reckless driving or other vehicular violation causing bodily injury or death within the two (2) years prior to submitting an application; and
- 6.7.a.11 Successfully complete an emergency vehicle operator course approved by the Commissioner.

6.7.b Recertification requirements. The applicant shall;

- 6.7.b.1 Apply in a format prescribed by the Commissioner;
- 6.7.b.2 Submit the appropriate fees as described in subsection 6.9 of this rule;
- 6.7.b.3 Possess valid CPR certification prescribed by the Commissioner;
- 6.7.b.4 Successfully complete hazardous materials awareness training meeting US Department of Labor OSHA 1910-120 requirements or greater;
- 6.7.b.5 Possess valid first aid certification meeting US Department of Labor OSHA 1910.266, Appendix B requirements or greater; and
- 6.7.b.6 Possess and maintain a valid driver's license.

EMS personnel that have been charged with/involved in any criminal activity must report these instances to OEMS within 10 days of the incident. These investigations are very time intensive. If such a situation arises, please be patient and cooperative with this process

There was recently a reminder sent out regarding the EMS Education Course Approval policy (8.8-020113). The policy has been in place since 2013 and was designed to set a standard for course review and approval. Special focus needs to be made to the timelines listed for getting courses approved and the information needed to approve the courses. Courses not following the proper timelines can not be approved. The course being sent via CIS for approval must also include as

detailed a description as possible. Once the course is approved, a potential student can view the course with the registration code and register for the class themselves in CIS.

With the passage of SB 335, WV OEMS is charged with approving training programs for initial responders to administer Naloxone. There will be train-the-trainer sessions scheduled for May. OEMS encourages EMS agencies to support your local law enforcement and fire personnel by providing training to these entities in your local communities. OEMS must also report to the Legislature annually the number of training programs and numbers of individuals trained, so your assistance and cooperation in these endeavors are greatly appreciated.