



EMS Information Bulletin- #036

DATE: April 7, 2006

SUBJECT: Statewide BLS Protocol Update

TO: All Medical Command Facilities and EMS Practitioners

FROM: Emergency Medical Services Office
Pa Department of Health
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The Bureau of EMS, Department of Health, is pleased to provide these updated "Statewide BLS Protocols" to the EMS personnel of Pennsylvania. Since the original version, the AHA CPR guidelines have been updated and Pennsylvania has begun a process to recognize Level III trauma centers. These are some of the issues that have been addressed in this updated version of the protocols.

These protocols are an update to the original version of the Statewide BLS Protocols that became effective on September 1, 2004. New sections of the protocols are identified with **yellow highlighting**, and this will assist EMS personnel when looking for updated changes. These updated protocols may be used by EMS personnel as soon as they are familiar with the updates, but all personnel will be using these updated protocols by the effective date of November 1, 2006. Several resources will be available to assist EMS personnel in becoming familiar with the protocol updates. These include updated AHA (or equivalent) CPR courses, in-service presentations that will be available to regions and services, and online update information on the Learning Management System (LMS). If you are not registered for the free LMS continuing education system, please contact the regional EMS council responsible for the area in which you live.

The Department of Health's Bureau of EMS website will always contain the most current version of the EMS protocols, the scope of practice for each level of practitioner, important EMS Information Bulletins, and many other helpful resources. This information can be accessed online at www.health.state.pa.us/ems. The Statewide BLS Protocols may be directly printed or downloaded into a PDA for easy reference.

The Department is committed to providing Pennsylvania's EMS personnel with the most up-to-date protocols, and to do this requires periodic updates. The protocols will be reviewed annually, and EMS personnel are encouraged to provide recommendations for improvement at any time. Comments should be directed to the Commonwealth EMS Medical Director, Bureau of EMS, Room 1034 Health & Welfare Building, 7th & Forster Streets, Harrisburg, PA 17120.