# EMS Information Bulletin- #038

**DATE:** May 23, 2006

**SUBJECT:** Certification Examination Update

**TO:** Regional EMS Directors
Regional Training Coordinators

**FROM:** Bureau of Emergency Medical Services
Pa Department of Health
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Please note the following updates/changes in the certification examination process:

- BLS Training programs (FR, EMT) beginning after July 1, 2006 will be tested to the new (2005) American Heart Association (AHA) guidelines during the certification process. Regional EMS councils will be provided with updated written and practical BLS examinations prior to July 15, 2006. All materials currently available on the Bureau of EMS web page will be updated by July 15, 2006. This includes the following:
    - BLS Skill sheets
    - BLS Critical Exam Components
    - BLS Protocols (already completed)
- ALS candidates completing the certification process prior to January 1, 2007 are permitted to demonstrate competency with either the old (2000) or new (2005) AHA guidelines. Candidates testing after January 1, 2007 will be expected to demonstrate competency under the 2005 AHA guidelines.
- Effective January 1, 2007, the Bureau of Emergency Medical Services will discontinue direct payments to the National Registry of EMTs (NREMT) for Pennsylvania candidates taking the state written ALS examination. ALS candidates will be responsible for fees associated with each attempt made. Funding can be provided to EMS Agencies (licensed ambulance service or recognized QRS) at 100% allowable costs for students to take the initial State written ALS certification test at the paramedic level. The maximum allowable cost will be $300.00 and/or two (2) opportunities to take the test.

Please forward any questions to agilger@state.pa.us