



Monroe Livingston Region Program Agency

Division of Prehospital Medicine, University of Rochester

Mailing Address: 601 Elmwood Avenue, Box 655, Rochester, NY 14642

Physical Address: 120 Corporate Woods, Suite 100, Rochester, NY 14623

Phone: (585) 463-2900 Fax: (585) 463-2966 E-Mail: mlrems@urmc.rochester.edu

To: All EMS Agencies

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

Date: January 24, 2011

Re: Advisory 11-01: New AHA Guidelines

As providers are well aware, the 2010 American Heart Association Guidelines and training materials have recently been released. This Advisory is to clarify the roll-out of those guidelines.

All courses sponsored by the American Heart Association will begin teaching the “new” guidelines by April 1, 2011. Thus anyone taking a CPR course after that date will be taught the new guidelines. Importantly, there is no requirement for providers to update their CPR card as a result of the recent changes. That is, if your CPR card expires in February 2012, you may recertify anytime before February 2012. You are under no obligation to update your CPR to the new guidelines before then. Agencies and individual providers may choose to voluntarily update all of their personnel, however at this time they are under no obligation from the AHA or MLREMS to do so.

For ALS providers, the changes to ACLS/PALS as promulgated by the AHA have not been reviewed by the State Emergency Medicine Advisory Committee (SEMAC). It is anticipated that they will be at their late March meeting. Until such time as the SEMAC approves changing regional protocols to reflect the 2010 AHA standards, ALS providers are expected to follow regional protocol with respect to ACLS and PALS. Deviations from the MLREMS protocols as a result of a provider following the 2010 AHA Guidelines should be reviewed and discussed with the Agency Medical Director. We recognize that this can be a time of confusion with respect to AHA and regional/state guidelines and encourage agency Quality Assurance/Improvement programs to be sensitive to this. Importantly, none of the interventions that were removed in the 2010 guidelines are likely to cause harm if continued, and aside from high quality CPR that is provided faster, deeper, and with less interruption, no other interventions in the new guidelines are likely to improve outcome.

With any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Regional Program Agency.