



To: EMS Certified & Licensed Persons
From: Kraig Kinney, State Director and Counsel of EMS
Date: July 13, 2020
Re: EMS Updates

On July 9, the EMS Commission regular meeting was held. We had an improved electronic meeting and hope to continue to improve that service.

We will have the usual minutes, but I wanted to share the important issues that were addressed in the meeting:

- The Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) announced:
 - Methodist Northlake in Gary had elected to drop ACS verification status as of May 1.
 - On August 1, 2020, Terre Haute Regional Hospital will drop from Level 2 to Level 3, which is the same ACS status as Union Hospital also located in Terre Haute.
- Announcements from the EMS Commission meeting:
 - The 2020 Indiana Emergency Response Conference was CANCELLED for September due to the COVID pandemic.
 - The Board of Pharmacy rule for EMS organizations to obtain their own controlled substance registration (CSR) has cleared moratorium exception review and will begin formal rulemaking soon. It is estimated to take about six months for the formal rulemaking process.
 - The Mobile Integrated Health (MIH) Advisory Board, a subcommittee of the EMS Commission, has been formed by IDHS as directed and plans are underway for an August inaugural meeting. A membership list is included with this information.
 - The Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) has approved a new line item billing for naloxone reimbursement. This will be a first to allow billing for an individual drug and administration. An overview of the program was presented. Attached is information on offerings and enrollment for further training for both field providers and billing staff.
 - Program began in July 1, 2020.
 - Announced by FSSA IHCP in Bulletin:
<http://provider.indianamedicaid.com/ihcp/Bulletins/BT202063.pdf>
 - The program will reimburse both naloxone medication and the administration where the provider organization administers and the organization had purchased (if the medication was obtained through a federal grant, reimbursement cannot be sought).
 - If the naloxone is administered prior to arrival of the billing EMS crew and is properly documented, reimbursement can be submitted if there is some

arrangement with the first responder EMS-certified non-transport provider, such as replenishment of the naloxone or a payment arrangement. Note that non-EMS certified organizations such as law enforcement are not eligible to participate in the reimbursement due to federal government requirements for the funding source.

- The new challenge is that the 10- or 11-digit National Drug Code (NDC) must be recorded off each naloxone packing utilized. This will need to be done by field providers at the time of patient interaction so it is available to the billing staff.
 - Certified EMS professionals may take a brief LMS training on Acadis titled “Naloxone Reimbursement” to become more familiar with changes in documentation they may need to make.
 - An overview of the new program is attached and includes interactive online training sessions.
- State EMS Medical Director Dr. Michael Kaufmann has released the second EMS System Quality Improvement Report that covers how Indiana is doing with regards to national EMS compliance standards. The report is on the IDHS EMS website and can be viewed at <https://www.in.gov/dhs/files/EMS-System-Quality-Improvement-Report-January-2020.pdf>.
 - In a COVID update, Dr. Kaufmann noted that there have been some increases in COVID positive cases around the state and EMS providers need to remain cognizant and prepared. **EMS provider organizations still need to update their EMResource status** so both IDHS and ISDH have accurate pictures of the PPE needs. Many providers have not updated their status in weeks.
 - IDHS has entered into a grant partnership with Indiana State Department of Health for EMS COVID education and PPE. IDHS will be utilizing an LMS content developer to create more engaging content for Acadis on matters relating to COVID. Director Kinney indicated that if any individuals have content on COVID-related matters that they would be willing to share with the initiative, please contact him.
 - IDHS plans to create an Acadis series on key EMS leadership roles that will highlight regulatory responsibilities and compliance with EMS rules. These training opportunities will target all EMS professionals but will be essential when EMS professionals enter new leadership roles. The current plans are for: EMS organization director/operations, EMS training officer, pediatric emergency care coordinator, supervising hospital officials and training institution officials.
 - Non-transport EMS providers are not required to report data per state rules. Currently, some submit data through ImageTrend, which goes into our NEMESIS data collection, In an effort to streamline the data, IDHS wants to move the BLS non-transport providers from the NEMESIS reporting. Given that many transport providers utilize the ImageTrend system as their patient care record, IDHS has created a separate ImageTrend worksheet that will allow non-transport providers to record their EMS encounters. The system also will allow the non-transport organizations to do some report functions. The

EMS district managers will be working with the non-transport providers to transition from the current reporting to the new worksheet.

- Special recognitions that were given or adopted:
 - Douglas Scher, Paramedic Emeritus after 45 years of service in EMS