



CENTRAL SHENANDOAH EMS COUNCIL

2312 W. Beverley St.
Staunton, VA 24401

www.csems.vaems.org
e-mail: csems@ntelos.net

(540) 886-3676 phone
(540) 886-3735 fax

March 4, 2002

To: CSEMS ALS Agencies

From: Matt Painter
Executive Director

Re: Drug Boxes **Important Information!!**

As you are aware the Council works to coordinate the regional ST and CT boxes. This in cooperation with the local hospitals.

A problem has surfaced that I hope you find the solution agreeable. Many of these boxes have been in the "system" for 10 or more years. If you are an ALS provider I am sure you have noticed some of the boxes are in poor condition. Over the years the hospitals and the Council have replaced the broken boxes. The average may be 2 or so boxes per hospital per year. CT boxes cost \$85 and a ST box \$65. The hospitals have indicated the number of boxes that are broken or are in poor condition is increasing and many new boxes need to be purchased, more than either of us can financially burden. The hospitals continue to stock the boxes for us with little or no revenue recovered due to Medicare regulations. They are not able to bill most patients for the use of these boxes.

I presented this to the Executive Board last week for input. We considered many options to remedy this problem. We concluded the best option would be to ask each agency that utilizes the drug boxes to pay a nominal annual fee to go into an escrow to replace the boxes. We calculated that \$50 per agency would be sufficient. The Council would hold this money and purchase new boxes, label and number them and present them to the hospital as they find boxes in poor condition. It is possible that the amount of \$50 will decrease after we get "caught up". Other options were for a grant. Problem with a grant is this is an ongoing problem that needs a continuous revenue source to fix. There was also discussion of paying per box. For example a larger agency with more boxes should pay more. However for us that would be a nightmare to keep up with as the numbers change etc. Also since we are only asking for \$50 per year it really would not make that much difference. Agencies will still have to buy a box if upgrading or adding a new unit. This is a repair/maintenance fund only.

I hope you find this acceptable. We feel most providers and agencies will be happy to pay a little extra to have boxes that aren't falling apart! Please let me know if you have questions or concerns. We wanted each agency to have input and be aware of the problem. We will invoice for this \$50 in April if we receive no objections.

Thanks for your support and commitment to EMS!!!

Sincerely,

Matt Painter