



CENTRAL SHENANDOAH EMS COUNCIL

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Date: December 10, 2002
To: Agency Training Officers
From: Matt Lawler, CSEMS Council Training Director
Re: Training Calendar, New ALS Programs, Skills Drill

Enclosed, you will find the training calendar for January 2003 through June 2003. Please post the calendar at your agency and/or distribute copies to your ALS providers. Many changes to the advanced life support programs will begin in 2003. I will summarize these changes in this memorandum. It is imperative this information is passed on to your ALS providers at your agency.

EMT-Enhanced Program

The EMT-Enhanced program is replacing the Shock Trauma Technician program. The Council will be starting an Enhanced program on January 27, 2003. A training announcement is enclosed. We will be conducting this course at our office to minimize the impact of any unforeseen problems encountered while administering the new curriculum. After this course, we will resume rotating the course throughout the region.

Cardiac Technician to Intermediate Transition Program

The Council will begin two Cardiac Technician to Intermediate transition programs that will be conducted as regular classes. The classes start February 18, 2003 and will meet twice each week for thirteen weeks. A training announcement is enclosed. Preference will be given to ALS Course Coordinators and CSEMS Council Regional Preceptors. It is essential these groups transition to Intermediate in the coming year so that they may assist teaching and precepting students in future initial certification EMT-Intermediate programs.

Transition Programs in Continuing Education Format

Many Shock Trauma and Cardiac Technicians will elect to transition to Enhanced or Intermediate in a continuing education format. The Council will begin offering these transition programs in a CE format starting in January 2003. Shock Trauma Techs will need 38 hours and Cardiac Techs will need 70 hours to transition to Enhanced and Intermediate, respectively.

Providers choosing to transition using the Council's continuing education program *MUST* attend one of the classes offered each month. Regular CE credits, like those you would receive at EMS Symposium, will not count towards the transition to the new level. Think of the program as a class that lasts two or three years, but only meets once each month. The schedule for the CE transition program is enclosed.

The CE transition program will be repeated starting in January 2006 so that by December 2008, all providers will have had the opportunity to transition to Enhanced or Intermediate twice. The Office of EMS issued the enclosed memorandum that outlines the phase out schedule for STT and CT. An ALS provider electing to transition now must begin attending CE in January 2003.



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Cardiac Technicians transitioning to Intermediate must attend a CE class each month to receive the required 70 hours. Shock Trauma Technicians will need to attend selected classes to transition to Enhanced. The selected classes are designated on the enclosed schedule and will be designated on the Training Calendar. All classes through June 2003 need to be attended by both STT's and CT's.

Instructors available to teach the Intermediate curriculum will be limited until we complete the first Cardiac to Intermediate transition course. Therefore, we are forced to limit the number of CE classes offered each month to two. One class will be at our office on a Saturday and the other at the Rockingham County Fire & Rescue office on a weekday. After May 2003, we will resume offering CE classes five times each month in all areas of the Council region.

Skills Drills

The months the Council conducts skills drills have changed. In October, we conducted a survey of ALS providers at skills drill. Overwhelmingly, those surveyed favored having skills drills in February, June, and October. And that is what we will do. This puts the drills back on an every four month schedule.

The Medical Control Review Committee (MCRC) has mandated that the Council restructure skills drills to be more of an evaluative than a continuing education drill. Starting in February, we will begin working towards fulfilling that mandate. ALS providers should expect a similar format at skills drill. However, those conducting the skills drill will be documenting provider performance, which will be relayed to the Operational Medical Directors and the MCRC.

Let me remind you that ALS providers are required to attend two of the three skills drills conducted each year and may not skip consecutive skills drills.

Additional Information

There will be many changes to the training programs coming years. More information on the new programs can be found on the CSEMS Council's web site at www.csems.vaems.org. If you have any questions concerning the new curricula, transition programs, or skills drills, please contact me.