



EMS Information Bulletin 2013-002

DATE: January 9, 2013

SUBJECT: First Responder Transition to Emergency Medical Responder

TO: EMS Agencies
EMS Practitioners

FROM: Bureau of Emergency Medical Services
PA Department of Health
(717) 787-8740

As Pennsylvania begins to utilize the National EMS Education Standards, there will be many changes occurring in education and certification.

One such change recently occurred with an update to the EMS Registry System (EMSRS). All currently certified First Responders (FR) have now been changed to the new Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) certification level. The EMR level will appear on certification cards and reports generated from the EMSRS, including continuing education status reports.

The EMR certification level and Scope of Practice are equivalent to that of the First Responder, and these certification levels will be considered interchangeable. All First Responders and EMR's should continue to follow the Scope of Practice of the First Responders as published in the Pennsylvania Bulletin until such time as the EMR Scope of Practice is published (expected to be fall of 2013).

Newly certified EMR's will continue to receive First Responder patches until the current supply is exhausted.

First Responder certification cards will be replaced with EMR cards on a rolling basis consistent with the expiration date on the card.

If you should have any questions, or need additional information, please contact your Regional EMS Council or the Bureau of Emergency Medical Services.