pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

EMS Information Bulletin 2013-004

DATE: March 4, 2013

SUBJECT: ALS / BLS Protocol

TO: EMS Agencies, Regional EMS Councils

FROM: Bureau of Emergency Medical Services
PA Department of Health
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The Bureau of EMS, Department of Health, is pleased to provide these updated Statewide EMS Protocols to the EMS providers of Pennsylvania.

This 2013 update of the Statewide EMS Protocols focuses narrowly on:

a) Improved care for sudden cardiac arrest;
b) Updating the trauma patient destination protocol for the addition of Level IV trauma centers and increased consistency with the 2011 CDC/ACS national trauma field triage guidelines, and;
c) Updating the stroke protocols to be consistent with the listing of recognized primary stroke centers.

Recent advances have led to significant improvement in patient outcome from sudden cardiac arrest when EMS agencies have embraced a pit crew approach that focuses on CPR best practices. The Bureau of EMS, in conjunction with the Pennsylvania HeartRescue Project, has developed resources to educate EMS providers to these protocol changes.

This 2013 version of the statewide protocols may be used by EMS providers as soon as they are familiar with the updates, but all providers must be using these updated protocols by the effective date of July 1, 2013.

Several resources will be available to assist providers in becoming familiar with the protocol updates. These include an in-service presentation that will be available to regions and agencies and educational information on the Learning Management System (LMS). All EMS providers should complete the course "High-functioning CPR Teams: Science Lecture" (BEMS course #006372) to familiarize themselves with these updates to cardiac arrest care. The optional related simulation-based hands-on course "High-functioning CPR Team: Pit Crew High-Fidelity Simulation (BEMS course #006373) is recommended for providers within all EMS agencies.