



North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Health Service Regulation
Office of Emergency Medical Services


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MEMORANDUM

TO: North Carolina EMS Systems, Agencies, and Professionals

FROM: Greg Mears, MD 
NC State EMS Medical Director

SUBJECT: Implementation of the 2009 NCCEP Standards for Medical Oversight and Data Collection

DATE: 1/31/2009

The purpose of this memo is to introduce the 2009 North Carolina College of Emergency Physicians (NCCEP) Standards for EMS Medical Oversight and Data Collection. The NCCEP EMS Standards documents were recently reviewed and revised by NCCEP from the 2005 version. This memo also addresses NC regulatory changes effective January 1, 2009 in the NC EMS Rules (Title 10A Chapter 13 Subchapter P). North Carolina EMS Rules reference the 2009 NCCEP Standards documents and authorize the NC Office of EMS to direct EMS Systems, Agencies, and Professionals in their implementation and ongoing use.

The 2009 NCCEP Standards include 9 different sections or components including:

- * Qualifications for EMS Medical Directors
- * EMS Vehicle Equipment Requirements
- * Standards for EMS Skills and Medications
- * Standards for Emergency Medical Dispatch Programs
- * EMS Patient Care Treatment Protocols
- * EMS Patient Care Related Operational Policies
- * EMS Procedures
- * EMS Data Collection Requirements
- * An EMS Performance Improvement Guideline

These documents are very detailed and beyond the ability of a memo to adequately describe. For copies of the 2009 NCCEP Standards and complete information on each component, please go to www.NCEMS.org. I encourage you to review the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document and web site content. This will provide great detail on how to use and implement each of the components.



It is important for NC EMS to migrate to the 2009 NCCEP Standards as soon as possible. The 2009 NCCEP Standards must be implemented within each EMS System, Agency, and Professional by December 31, 2009. Many EMS Systems will be required to implement sooner if their EMS System Plan is up for renewal in 2009. Any EMS System or Agency that has not implemented the 2009 NCCEP Protocols by December 31, 2009 must use the 2009 NCCEP Protocols unchanged.

The 2009 NCCEP EMS Protocols have been greatly enhanced and new NC EMS rules require all EMS Systems and Agencies to implement the 2009 Protocols unchanged unless there is an objective reason within a local community to alter an individual protocol or develop a protocol that is not currently within the 2009 NCCEP Standards. Any request to change or add to the 2009 NCCEP Protocols locally must be discussed with and approved by the NC EMS Medical Director prior to their development. Since all EMS Systems and Agencies have current protocols in use, the NC OEMS must set a cutoff date for any changes to the existing (2005 based) NCCEP Protocols. **No changes to existing 2005 NCCEP based protocols will be accepted beyond February 28th, 2009.**

With the implementation of the 2009 NCCEP Protocols in cooperation with the EMS Performance Improvement Center (EMSPIC) will provide printed copies of the NC EMS Protocols (based on the 2009 NCCEP Standards) at no cost to EMS Systems and Agencies who choose to implement the 2009 NCCEP Protocols unchanged. Details on how to obtain printed versions can be found on the web site in the FAQ section.

The implementation of the 2009 NCCEP Standards and our 2009 EMS Rules will require significant teamwork and communication. Please work with your NC OEMS Regional Specialist throughout this process. Please contact me electronically at gdm@med.unc.edu if I can be of assistance in this process.