



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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To: James Dudley, M.D., Kim Mitchell, M.D., Regional EMS Councils, OEMS Program Representatives, BLS Program Standards (Accreditation) Ad-hoc Committee

From: Warren Short, Training Manager  
Office of EMS

Date: March 27, 2006

Subject: BLS Program Standards (Accreditation) Ad-hoc Committee Dissolved

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On March 21, 2006 the BLS Program Standards Ad-hoc Committee met to discuss whether OEMS should continue to pursue the development of program standards for BLS training program at this time. Members of the committee and those in attendance shared their candid comments and opinions about this issue. There was agreement that standards need to be enhanced for EMS training programs and instructors to ensure consistency and high quality education. Differences among committee members and others related to how and when to achieve these goals. After a lengthy discussion, the committee voted 6 to 4 to discontinue its work. Following the vote, the ad-hoc committee indicated that the Office should concentrate on correcting the issues affecting EMT Instructors, evaluation of practical skill examinations, and the consolidated testing processes.

In order to examine and address existing instructional, evaluation and testing problems, OEMS requested and received the endorsement of the ad-hoc committee to ask the Professional Development Committee and the Medical Direction Committee to establish the following ad-hoc sub-committees to pursue these concerns:

Professional Development Committee:

- 1) A sub-committee to review EMT Instructor issues. (The charge of the sub-committee will also include credentialing of EMT Instructors).
- 2) A sub-committee to review certification testing issues.
- 3) A sub-committee to review certification evaluator issues.

Medical Direction Committee

- 1) A sub-committee to review accreditation standards for ALS programs.
- 2) A sub-committee to review ALS level curricula.

Upon approval by the respective committees, OEMS will seek membership for these sub-committees from each of the regional EMS councils and other appropriate entities (such as, OEMS Program Representatives, educational institutions, instructors, ALS Coordinators, etc.). This selection process may start prior to the next scheduled meeting of these committees in anticipation of their approval for the formation of the sub-committees listed above. The work completed by the BLS Program Standards Ad-hoc committee will be distributed to their respective sub-committees if approved and established.

The Office of EMS looks forward to addressing concerns identified by these sub-committees and developing strategies to improve the quality of EMS education in the Commonwealth.