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Continuing Education Requirement for Emergency Cardiac Care

An e-mail was recently distributed to the EMS community by a vendor regarding the Emergency Care and Safety Institute (ECSI) eACLS course that requires clarification for the benefit of Ohio EMS providers seeking recertification. As stated in the Ohio Administrative Code 4765-19-01(B)(4)(f), any course that is approved by CECBEMS (Continuing Education Coordinating Board for Emergency Medical Services) is accepted by the EMS Board for continuing education. The ECSI eACLS course has been approved by CECBEMS and is therefore accepted by the EMS Board for continuing education.

According to the Ohio Administrative Code 4765-17-02(A)(1)(d), EMT-Paramedics are required to complete 12 hours of emergency cardiac care per certification cycle. The rule also states that this requirement "may be satisfied upon successful completion of an advanced cardiac life support course of the American heart association, the American health and safety institute, or an equivalent program approved or designated by the board." Currently, the only programs that have been approved or designated by the EMS Board that may satisfy the emergency cardiac care requirement upon successful completion are the advanced cardiac life support courses of the American Heart Association (AHA) and the American Health and Safety Institute (ASHI).

The ECSI eACLS course was discussed at the March 2008 EMS Board meeting. Due to several issues identified with this course, the EMS Board elected not to approve or designate any additional programs to the currently accepted AHA and AHSI advanced cardiac life support courses. Once these issues have been appropriately addressed and resolved, the Emergency Care and Safety Institute is welcome to present their course to the EMS Board for reconsideration in the future.

The completion of the ECSI eACLS course can be applied to continuing education hours as the course is CECBEMS-approved. However, the presentation of an ECSI eACLS course completion document alone will not satisfy the 12 hours of emergency cardiac care continuing education requirement the EMT-Paramedic recertification at this time.

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Mission Statement

"To promote quality and professionalism in the hiring, training, education, and delivery of fire and Emergency Medical Services with equal consideration given to all diverse populations and constituents."