



the SIREN UPDATE

Letter from the Commissioner to Nation's Healthcare Professionals on H1N1 Vaccine

On Nov. 10, Margaret A. Hamburg, M.D. Commissioner of Food and Drugs Administration released a letter to healthcare professionals thanking them for their extraordinary efforts during the 2009 H1N1 influenza outbreak.



In the letter, Dr. Hamburg discusses the public health challenges providers face having to find a balance in their routine patient care responsibilities with a special role in the influenza response. She emphasizes the additional challenges providers face with the delays in vaccine delivery and the persistence of myth about the vaccination.

The letter also includes information regarding the development process and safety monitoring of the H1N1 influenza vaccine that providers may find helpful as they talk to others about the vaccine. The full content of the letter may be viewed at www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/PublicHealthFocus/ucm189691.htm.

Physicians Needed to Serve on Regional Physician Advisory Board

The Board of EMS is seeking interested physicians to serve on the Region 6 Physician Advisory Board (RPAB). Region 6 currently serves an eighteen county area on the southeastern border of the state running from Jefferson County to Lawrence County. Physicians must live or work in the region to be eligible to serve in that region. Each region may have up to nine physician members. There are no physicians serving as members of Region 6 RPAB at this time.

Ohio Revised Code 4765.05 authorizes the EMS Board to divide the state geographically into prehospital emergency medical services regions for purposes of overseeing the delivery of adult and pediatric prehospital emergency medical services. There are currently ten established regions. Some of the regions including Region 6, are under review for possible restructuring to better serve their areas.

Each RPAB may provide services to the EMS providers in its region such as:

1. develop and recommend written medical protocols;
2. assist in developing EMS continuing education programs;
3. assist in the organization, evaluation, and procurement of equipment;
4. assist in the maintenance of information regarding all EMS providers and organizations in the region including the name of the medical director for each;
5. assist in the identification of problems with the provision of emergency medical services in the region and development of strategies to address such problems;
6. facilitate agreements for mutual aid and assistance between EMS organizations in the region;
7. assist all EMS organizations in its region in procuring the services of a medical director.

To find out more about the RPAB, view a map of the regions or to obtain an application, please visit the Division of EMS web page at www.ems.ohio.gov/ems_rpab.stm. Physicians interested in serving must submit an application and a curriculum vitae. The minimum qualifications for a member of the RPAB and the full language of rules governing the responsibilities and conduct of the RPAB can be viewed at <http://codes.ohio.gov/oac/4765-3>.

Questions regarding the RPAB can be directed to Ellen Owens at eowens@dps.state.oh.us or 614-644-5708.

Division of EMS Office of Fire Services Hosts 16 Life Safety Initiatives Seminar

On Dec. 11, the Division of Emergency Medical Services, Office of Fire Services will host an Implementing the 16 Life Safety Initiatives seminar for program directors of Ohio Fire charters and other agencies who train first responders. The goal of this program is to bring awareness to the line of duty deaths that are occurring in Ohio and nationally with first responders.

"The Division of EMS, Office of Fire Services, is excited about partnering with the advocates in Ohio to ensure that we do our part to bring every firefighter home," said Richard Rucker, executive director of the Division of EMS. "If we change the culture of firefighting by educating our firefighters with these 16 Life Safety Initiatives and save a life, we have succeeded."

The 16 Life Initiatives were initially created in 2004 in conjunction with the Everyone Goes Home program during a firefighter life safety summit hosted in Florida by the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation to address prevention efforts in reducing line-of-duty firefighter deaths. In cooperation with the United States Fire Administration, the Foundation has established the objectives of reducing the fatality rate by 25 percent within 5 years and by 50 percent within 10 years.

According to United States Fire Administration, every year approximately 100 firefighters lose their lives in the line of duty in the United States.

If you would like more information on this seminar please contact Doug Orahod, State Fire Coordinator, at 1-800-233-0785 or by email at dorahood@dps.state.oh.us.

Cardiac Science Corp. Powerheart and CardioVive Automated External Defibrillators Recall

Cardiac Science Corporation has received multiple complaints related to defective components in these AEDs that indicate the affected devices may not deliver electric shocks and that the devices' self-test may not detect the defect in advance of their use. 300,000 Cardiac Science AEDs worldwide are potentially affected by this problem. The G3 Series devices were manufactured between August 2003 and August 2009. Affected models include the following:



The G3 Series devices were manufactured between August 2003 and August 2009. Affected models include the following:

Powerheart models 9300A, 9300C, 9300D, 9300E, 9300P, 9390A, 9390E; and CardioVive 92531, 92532, and 9253

Because the AED display screen and/or audible indicators may not accurately indicate whether the device is functioning properly or will function properly at time of use, FDA encourages users of the affected AEDs to follow the additional precautions provided in the FDA November 19th communication.

FDA is gathering more data about this situation to better understand its potential public health impact and will make available any new information that might affect the use of these AED devices. Prompt reporting of adverse events can help FDA identify and better understand the risks associated with medical devices.

FDA encourages anyone who suspects any electronic or mechanical problem(s) with an AED to file a voluntary report through MedWatch, the FDA Safety Information and Adverse Event Reporting Program at <https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/medwatch/medwatch-online.htm>.