



the SIREN UPDATE

Thank You to our Health Care and Fire Service Partners

As we come to the close of another year, the State Board of EMS and the staff of the Division of EMS would like to take this opportunity to thank the many individuals, groups and organizations that helped support our mission in 2010. We could not have accomplished all that we did without your contributions. We look forward to working with you in the coming year.



We would also like to take this opportunity to offer a special thanks to the many EMS and Fire service providers of Ohio for your continued service in your communities. The challenges you face and the sacrifices you make have not gone unnoticed and are truly appreciated.

Ohio EMS for Children to Survey Hospitals and EMS Agencies This Winter

The Ohio EMS for Children program will send out surveys this winter to a random sample of hospitals and EMS agencies to help assess the state's ability to care for pediatric patients in emergencies.

EMS agencies will be asked about their access to pediatric medical direction and the pediatric equipment carried on their ambulances. Hospitals will be asked about their pediatric transfer agreements and transfer guidelines.



Ohio EMS agencies completing surveys in 2008 indicated that only 53 percent of Basic Life Support (BLS) ambulances and 80 percent of Advanced Life Support (ALS) ambulances have access to on-line pediatric medical direction at the scene of an emergency.

In addition, only 18 percent of BLS ambulances and 25 percent of ALS ambulances are stocked with all of the recommended pediatric equipment.

Ohio EMS for Children has been promoting its new equipment list, Equipment for Ambulances, by distributing the list at educational and organizational meetings throughout the past year, and by mailing a copy to each Ohio EMS agency. If you have not seen this list, please request a copy at EMSC@dps.state.oh.us.

Hospitals completing surveys in 2008 indicated that only 10 percent of hospitals have written inter-facility transfer guidelines for pediatric patients, and that only 67 percent of hospitals have written inter-facility transfer agreements for pediatric patients. Hospital staff with questions may e-mail EMSC@dps.state.oh.us.

These surveys can help to show how well Ohio's emergency medical services treat pediatric patients. If you received an invitation to participate, please go to <http://www.emscsurveys.org> and complete the survey for your agency or hospital. If you are unsure, contact Joe Stack, EMS for Children Coordinator, at jestack@dps.state.oh.us, or call 614-387-1949.

CMS Publishes Toolkit to Assist Development of Written Materials

The Toolkit for *Making Written Material Clear and Effective* is a health literacy resource from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). As shown below, this 11-part Toolkit provides a detailed and comprehensive set of tools to help you make written material in printed formats easier for people to read, understand, and use.

Toolkit Part 1: About this Toolkit and how it can help you

Toolkit Part 2: Using a reader-centered approach to develop and test written material

Toolkit Part 3: Summary List of the "Toolkit Guidelines for Writing and Design"

Toolkit Part 4: Understanding and using the "Toolkit Guidelines for Writing"

Toolkit Part 5: Understanding and using the "Toolkit Guidelines for Graphic Design"

Toolkit Part 6: How to collect and use feedback from readers

Toolkit Part 7: Using readability formulas: A cautionary note

Toolkit Part 8: Will your written material be on a website?

Toolkit Part 9: Things to know if your written material is for older adults

Toolkit Part 10: "Before and after" example: Using this Toolkit's guidelines to revise a brochure

Toolkit Part 11: Understanding and using the "Toolkit Guidelines for Culturally Appropriate Translation"

Written material comes in different shapes and sizes and is used for different purposes. Examples include brochures and pamphlets, booklets, flyers, fact sheets, posters, bookmarks, application forms, comparison charts, postcards, instruction sheets, and questionnaires. More information can be found at www.cms.gov/WrittenMaterialsToolkit.

EMI Posts New and Revised Offerings

Several new or revised independent study courses that may be of interest to EMS partners have been posted to FEMA's Emergency Management Institute (EMI) web site:

IS-11.a - Animals in Disasters: Community Planning

IS-100.b - Introduction to Incident Command System, ICS-100

IS-100.HCb - Introduction to the Incident Command System (ICS 100) for Healthcare/Hospitals

IS-100.LEb - Introduction to the Incident Command System (ICS 100) for Law Enforcement

IS-100.PWb - Introduction to the Incident Command System (ICS 100) for Public Works

IS-200.b - ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents

All of these courses are new as of October 12, 2010 and can be found at training.fema.gov.