State of Maryland
Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems
653 West Pratt Street
Baltimore, Maryland
21201-1536

Martin O'Malley
Governor

Donald L. DeVries, Jr., Esq.
Chairman
Emergency Medical Services Board

Robert R. Bass, MD
Executive Director
410-706-5074
FAX 410-706-4768

TO: All EMS Providers, Operational Programs, Instructors, and Medical Directors

From: Richard Alcorta, MD FACEP
State EMS Medical Director

Date: January 13, 2011

RE: Transition to the American Heart Association (AHA) *2010 Guidelines for CPR and Emergency Cardiac Care*

The AHA has recently distributed the *2010 Guidelines for CPR and ECC*. As with previous updates to the AHA guidelines, there will be a transition period during which some providers will be trained to the 2010 Guidelines and others to the 2005 Guidelines. Additionally, until the 2010 Guidelines are incorporated into the *Maryland Medical Protocols for EMS Providers* and promulgated in 2012, there will be some inconsistencies between the AHA Guidelines and the Maryland EMS protocols.

A preliminary review of the guidelines indicates that the principal differences between the 2010 AHA guidelines and the current Maryland EMS protocols are in the assessment sequence (e.g. CAB vs. ABC) and in the performance of CPR. These differences are highlighted in the 2011 EMS Protocol Update which is posted on the MIEMSS Learning Management System.

During this transition period, it is acceptable for EMS providers to assess patients and to perform CPR based on the 2005 CPR Guidelines until they have been updated to the 2010 CPR Guidelines. Once a provider has been trained in the 2010 AHA CPR Guidelines, they should utilize them in their practice.

Changes in the Maryland EMS protocols to address changes in the AHA guidelines regarding medications and other interventions will not be addressed until the 2012 *Maryland Medical Protocols for EMS Providers* are implemented in July of 2012. ALS providers should continue to follow the most current Maryland EMS protocols until then.

During the transition period, BLS students will be tested by MIEMSS on the version of the AHA CPR guidelines their instructors taught them during their class.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at ralcorta@miemss.org or (410) 706-0880.