December 15, 2016

Dear EMS Manager,

The State Emergency Medical Advisory Committee (SEMAC) defined that controlled substance (CS) medications are a standard for Advanced Life Support (ALS) emergency medical care in New York State. While this is an added responsibility for some agencies, the ability to administer CS medication to patients is necessary and proper. The regulations governing the EMS system, Title 10 New York Codes Rules and Regulations (NYCRR) Part 800 were updated specific to the Requirements for an Advanced Life Support (ALS) System. The update, effective on July 31, 2016, is as follows:

800.5 REQUIREMENTS FOR AN ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEM
(d) An advanced life support system providing prehospital EMT-critical care and/or EMT-paramedic services must include the following:
   (4) a current class 3(c) institutional dispenser limited license, in accordance with Article 33 of the Public Health Law and section 80.136 of this Title, unless exempt as an ALS agency owned and operated by a hospital, to purchase, possess, deliver and administer controlled substance medications to treat patients, in accordance with applicable State-approved regional protocols developed pursuant to sections 3002-a and 3004-a of the Public Health Law; and...

If your EMS agency has not submitted a complete application for a Class 3(c) Controlled Substance license to the Department’s Regional Office prior to February 1, 2017, the Department and the Regional Emergency Medical Advisory Committee (REMAC) will remove the EMS agency’s authorization to provide ALS level care. Any EMS agency now seeking REMAC approval to become an ALS provider must apply for and hold a 03C license.

Currently required prehospital controlled substance medications include a benzodiazepine for the management of seizures (e.g. diazepam or midazolam), and a narcotic for the management of pain (e.g. morphine, or fentanyl). These medications are determined by SEMAC approved regional ALS protocols, and are subject to change.
The Bureaus of EMS and Narcotic Enforcement (BNE) are working together to insure that the DOH component of the license application and site review process will be timely. If you require assistance, please contact your regional EMS Representative as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Lee Burns
Director
Bureau of Emergency Medical Services

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Cc : SEMAC/SEMSCO
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