

ALS Committee

Agenda

September 20, 2017

Call to Order

Approval of Minutes

Old Business:

ALS protocol exam proposal

Trade Show update

New Business:

BLS Renewal/Extension

Scheduling of NR psychomotor exams

Proposed agenda Items

Announcements

Adjournment

MIEMSS ALS SUBCOMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

September 20, 2017

Present:

Rae Oliveira, Terrell Buckson

Go to meeting: Danny Webster, Kathleen Grote, Lee Silverman, Doug Beitzel, Chris Touzeau, Christine Haber, Colleen Lull, Dave Stamey, Ron Lewis, April Johnson, Joe Cvach, Claudia Clark, Jim Radcliffe

Call to Order:

The regular meeting of the ALS Subcommittee was called to order at 10:00 A.M. on September 20, 2017 by Co-chairman Lee Silverman.

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved and adopted.

Old Business

There is growing concern that the ALS protocol exam fails to meet the needs of the EMS community. Is it realistic for providers to recall every area of the protocol? There is a request to have Dr. Richard Alcorta attend the next meeting to assist with guiding the committee's efforts to improve the ALS protocol examination process.

In spite of protocol reviews and very intense preparation, the success rates on the exam are dismal. A comprehensive analysis is needed to identify the weaknesses and gaps in the process. The protocol examination should be used as a tool to empower candidates to search resources to assist with selecting correct answers on the exam and not merely require the memorization of trivial facts. Candidates should be expected to fail when asked to recall so many facts. High performing candidates are consistently failing the exam. A randomized 50-question test yields very low returns and lacks validity and reliability required to measure outcomes. The state should encourage candidates to use modern day resources. Further, it is of no benefit to ask providers to memorize drug doses when this is not practical in the field.

We are calling for a change in the testing process to better reflect current best practices. The purpose of the examination isn't very clear. How is success measured? Measuring success based on a candidate meeting a minimum does not change patient outcomes (e.g. medical errors). The call to decentralize the ALS examination is still on the table.

A workgroup will be established to initiate research and formulate a proposal to highlight concerns and offer solutions to improve the examination process. Claudia Clark, Chris Touzeau, and April Johnson have agreed to serve in this effort.

Lee Silverman continues to work out logistics for the proposed Trade Show.

New Business

There needs to be a concerted effort to combine ALS psychomotor examinations. The sharing of resources will produce more efficient examinations and decrease hardships in terms of equipment and human resources. There should be a policy in place to prevent programs from testing their own students. It is of great benefit to have students tested by seasoned evaluators from outside teaching agencies. Anne Arundel Community College hosted an exam and welcomed evaluators from UMBC, and other programs to assist. The process was certainly better and more efficient.

The state will provide a list of open ALS psychomotor examinations.

Program coordinators should meet prior to scheduling exams with MIEMSS and NR to discuss logistics. Psychomotor examination date should be added in the ALS course request. Proposed dates are subject to approval by Terrell Buckson.

The new topics for local NCCP content are proposed for October 2018. The ALS subcommittee should participate in identifying topics for the October 2018 release. These topics must be proposed by no later than the summer of 2018. The NCCP breakdown is located at miemss.org under the EMS Providers tab. Rae Oliveira will redistribute NCCP requirements for current ALS renewal cycles.

BLS renewal and extension applications will open on October 1, 2017 at 12 AM. The open renewal period will be consistent with ALS. Therefore, all renewal applications will open 90 days prior to the provider's certification or license expiration date.

There is a call for agenda items for the next meeting scheduled for November 15, 2017 at 1000 hours. Proposed items may be forwarded to Lee Silverman or Terrell Buckson.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the subcommittee, the meeting was adjourned at 11:27 PM.