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TO: All MA Accredited EMT Training Institutions
All MA Licensed Ambulance Services
All MA Instructor/Coordinators

CC: EMCAB Members

FROM: Deborah Allwes, BS, BSN, MPH, Director
Bureau of Health Care Safety and Quality

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DATE: July 22, 2014

RE: Elimination of Refresher Training Courses

This is to clarify that effective immediately, no EMT training institution accredited by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health's (Department) Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS), and no nonaccredited training providers, shall conduct refresher training courses at any level of EMT certification. Refresher training courses have been eliminated.

Please note that with the promulgation of the amendments to the EMS System regulations March 28, 2014, the term "refresher training" has been completely stricken from the regulations. It is no longer a defined term, and there is no longer any requirement that EMTs at any level complete a refresher training course in order to recertify. Similarly, Administrative Requirement (A/R) 2-200, Accredited Training Institution Roles and Responsibility, was updated June 24, 2013, and at that time, the term "refresher training" was deleted from that document as well. The regulations and A/R 2-200 now refer only to "continuing education."

The intent behind these changes was to eliminate refresher training courses entirely. OEMS has transitioned to requiring EMTs to fulfill their continuing education training requirements for recertification by meeting the National Registry of EMTs' (NREMT) Continued Competency Program. This Program has no refresher training component at all. A/R 2-212, EMT Continuing Education Standards, describes the transition timeline to the NREMT Continued Competency Program. With the end of the recertification period for those whose EMT certification expired in April 1, 2014, all EMTs from this time forward will be completing their required continuing

education by meeting the NREMT Continued Competency Program. In accordance with A/R 2-212, OEMS will provide a guidance document for assisting EMTs who took refresher training programs prior to the date of this Advisory, in applying them toward meeting the NREMT Continued Competency Program requirements. This guidance will be posted on the OEMS website with the updated recertification documents for the April 1, 2015 recertification cycle.

If you have any questions, please contact Aaron Gettinger, EMS Training and Education Coordinator, at aaron.gettinger@state.ma.us.