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TO: All Fire and Rescue Personnel
FROM: Eddie McClellan, Deputy Chief
RE: Suspension of EMT Optional Skills
DATE: July 31, 2012

INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN IB-12030

Due to recent interpretation by the Virginia Office of EMS on what skills and medications are within the EMT-Basic scope of practice; the Lord Fairfax EMS Council EMS Council's Medical Direction Board has suspended the EMT-Optional Skills program. Please review the letter from Regional Medical Director and our Department's Operational Medical Director Dr. Chris Turnbull regarding this.

Effective immediately, EMT-Basic providers with the Winchester Fire and Rescue Department must comply with Dr. Turnbull's letter (attached) dated July 25, 2012.

If you have any questions, please contact me.



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TO: All Lord Fairfax EMS Council Agencies
FROM: Dr. Chris Turnbull, Regional Medical Director
Date: July 25, 2012
RE: EMT-Basic Optional Skills

On July 11, 2012, the Lord Fairfax EMS Council's Medical Direction Board voted to suspend the EMT-Basic optional skills. In the opinion of the Office of EMS, EMT-B providers are only allowed to "assist" patients with their own prescribed drugs with the exception of an EpiPen[®], EpiPen Jr[®] and oxygen which are supported in the Scope of Practice and current Regulations. The optional skills are not part of the EMT Basic curriculum.

The reason for the suspension of the optional skills is because nowhere in the *Scope of Practice- Procedure or Scope of Practice- Formulary* dated April 6, 2011 were these skills or drugs addressed where EMT-Basic providers can administer drugs in this manner nor is this permitted in the current Regulations. Michael Berg and Dr. Lindbeck, State Medical Director, were consulted for their legal opinion.

Effective immediately, all EMT-Basic providers are prohibited to administer any drug that has not been prescribed to a patient by a licensed practitioner with the exception of the EpiPen[®], EpiPen Jr[®] and oxygen.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Ron Stickley at rstickley@vaems.org or Tracey McLaurin at tmclaurin@vaems.org.