



National EMS Education Standards Communiqué #6

15 December 2006

After spending the early months of the fall gathering material from the Expert Writers, the National EMS Education Standards Project Staff, Provider Level Leaders, and Content Level Leaders met in November. Primary goals of the Pittsburgh meeting were to write initial drafts of the Education Standards and to edit the Instructional Guidelines for the EMT and Paramedic levels. The format for the initial drafts was based on the feedback received from the May 2006 Stakeholders Summit in Silver Spring, Maryland.

Several important discussions took place during the week. First, feedback the group had received earlier from many stakeholders indicated their desire to return to traditional patient assessment terminology, that is, a return to the primary and secondary assessment approaches employed by other healthcare providers. The Project Team agreed with the Stakeholders that a more traditional approach would be beneficial and the Education Standards being drafted will reflect that change.

Second, the Project Team felt it was important for the Education Standards to require the EMT student to have patient contact and interaction as part of the education program. Interaction between EMT students and patients has not been universally implemented in current education programs and will be part of the new Education Standards draft.

Finally, another discussion involved the instructional detail related to important foundations at the EMT level. The Project Team felt that advances in medical and trauma care now demand a greater understanding of the basic pathophysiology associated with shock, acute coronary syndromes, and airway, ventilation, and oxygenation.

The second writing meeting is scheduled for early February 2007. The focus of that meeting will be to complete the initial drafts of the Education Standards for the Emergency Medical Responder and Advanced EMT levels. When the first drafts of the education standards and instructional guidelines are completed for all four levels of EMS provider, they will be posted on the NEMSES.org web site so the EMS community can review and comment on them.