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To: Ohio EMS medical directors, EMS agencies, and physician stakeholders in emergent and disaster response

From: Carol A. Cunningham, M.D., FAAEM, FAEMS
State Medical Director, Ohio Department of Public Safety, Division of EMS

Date: April 27, 2017

RE: State Medical Board of Ohio Physician Wallet Cards

The physician wallet card is an essential element in the credential review process during response to local, state, national, and federal emergencies and disasters, public sites where lifesaving medications and/or equipment are available, and in scenarios where Good Samaritan laws do not apply. The confirmation of responder credentials, including those of physicians, is well-established in the routine and emergent standard operating procedures of emergency response agencies. The possession of a wallet card becomes especially critical when communication networks are disrupted or unavailable.

The State Medical Board of Ohio discontinued the issuance of wallet cards at the time of initial licensure or renewal on September 29, 2015, but is in the process of implementing a process to auto-generate a confirmation email upon initial licensing or renewal; an email that will include a replica of a wallet card at the bottom. Licensees will have the ability to print this confirmation including the wallet card. The auto-generated licensure email, including the wallet card, is scheduled to be operable on June 20, 2017, subsequent to a change in online licensure websites scheduled to take place from June 2, 2017 until June 19, 2017.

Physicians who acquired or renewed their Ohio licensure on or after September 29, 2015 and those who need a wallet card prior to June 20, 2017 can request a replica of the wallet card through the State Medical Board of Ohio. An e-mail request should be sent to med.renewal@med.ohio.gov for a response within one business day. This email should include "EMS Wallet Card Request" in the subject line since the cards are no longer routinely provided to licensees. Due to the upcoming downtime in the State Medical Board's eLicensure system from June 2, 2017 to June 19, 2017, I highly recommend that EMS medical directors and physicians who engage in emergent or disaster response, and are in need of a wallet card, complete this process before **June 2, 2017**.

Physicians who are tasked to emergent or disaster response, or those who wish to be eligible to do so, are strongly advised to possess a current physician wallet card. The wallet card should be retained in the physician's possession at all times along with a government-issued form of photo identification.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me, the State Medical Board of Ohio at (614) 466-3934, or the Ohio Department of Public Safety, Division of EMS at (800) 233-0785. Thank you for your dedicated service to the residents and visitors of Ohio and to Ohio EMS.

Mission Statement

"to save lives, reduce injuries and economic loss, to administer Ohio's motor vehicle laws and to preserve the safety and well being of all citizens with the most cost-effective and service-oriented methods available."