



DT: 4/14/2016

TO: JOCO EMS SYSTEM PROVIDERS

RE: EMS SYSTEM EDUCATION CHANGES

We wanted to make sure that you were aware of some changes that will be taking place within the EMS System Education/Training process. Going forward, the EMS System Education process will no longer be providing ACLS/PALS/PHTLS/BLS certifications to field providers. This decision was made after many months of thoughtful discussion which included leadership from all agencies that participate in the EMS System.

There are several benefits to this change:

- Merit badge course content oftentimes conflicts with existing JOCO EMS Protocols.
- Merit badge courses are not able to change/adapt to new evidence as quickly as our EMS System.
- Our training time is exceedingly valuable, and we need the ability to focus on current EMS System protocols and equipment that we use on a daily basis, instead of educating/testing on content that does not apply directly to our EMS System.
- Allows for the EMS System Educators to tailor our efforts in areas we need to improve on (based on QA/CQI process) rather than arbitrary topics mandated by merit badge courses.

Each department will decide whether they wish to continue providing these merit badge courses to their personnel, outside of system wide training initiatives. However, this will no longer be an EMS System Education task during existing on-duty training. Instead, we are working on a comprehensive core content/skills verification process that applies to existing JOCO EMS System protocols and equipment. This process will allow us to assure that every provider has the opportunity to gain mastery of the protocols and patient care equipment we carry. Please know that we will continue to incorporate the core concepts contained in each merit badge course into our EMS System Educational process on a rotating basis.

We know this is a big change, but we do ask for your support as we move forward. Please don't hesitate to contact one of the Medical Directors or any of your Educators/Training Officers if you have any questions or concerns about this process.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ryan C. Jacobsen".

Ryan C. Jacobsen MD, EMT-P, FACEP