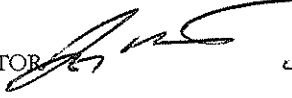


STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

TO: ALL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE DIRECTORS

FROM: JONATHAN BEST, EMS FIELD PROGRAM COORDINATOR 
LEONARD GUERCIA, DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

SUBJECT: RADIO NARROWBANDING REQUIREMENTS

DATE: 2/9/2012

CC: CMED DIRECTORS, EMS REGIONAL COORDINATORS

The intent of this correspondence is to remind all services of an impending deadline for compliance with FCC regulations regarding the narrow banding of radio systems. All radios shall be narrow banded by December of 2012. While we recognize there has been much discussion across the state regarding this federal change, OEMS felt it appropriate to issue a reminder and discuss requirements to all chiefs of services. We have divided the implementation of the requirements, previously published in a memo sent May 5th, 2011, into two components.

The first component is the ability to communicate via narrowband with existing equipment. It would be an onerous task to switch all CMED/RCC radio systems in the state to narrowband in one day. A strategic planning meeting was held with the CMED/RCCs and a staged implementation plan was developed. Based on that work, the date of the projected switch over by Region is as follows:

REGION	DEADLINE FOR SWITCHOVER
Region 1	August 1 st 2012
Region 2	September 1 st 2012
Region 3	October 1 st 2012
Region 5	November 1 st 2012
Region 4	December 1 st 2012

Services within each Region identified will have to have their equipment switched to narrowband by the identified date when switch over is completed. We anticipate, based on the schedule listed above, to have this narrow banding compliance program completed by December 15th.

The second component is the installation of required CMED/RCC radios with the new specified equipment. The implementation of the CMED radios with the new specified equipment shall be installed in EMS Providers units by February 2014. Based on the OEMS inspection schedule, this may require some services to secure radios earlier. This will allow organizations to include this communications upgrade in future budgets. If a service cannot narrowband their present radio, it is suggested they purchase a radio compliant with the new standards as opposed to purchasing a radio that in two years will not comply. It is also important to remember the original design for CMED/RCC systems was for mobile radios and not portables. Options are available to increase portable coverage however this is an individual service decision working in concert with your local CMED/RCC provider.

We hope this clarification identifies our expectations for the FCC narrow banding compliance. Technical questions by services can be made directly to the CMED/RCC organizations you work with, the OEMS Regional Coordinators, or Jonathan Best, EMS Field Program Coordinator.

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