



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Joe Manchin III
Governor

Martha Yeager Walker
Secretary

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 6, 2008
TO: All Licensed ALS Agencies
FROM: Jerry Kyle
Director
RE: **12-Lead ECGs**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jerry Kyle", is written over the printed name and title.

Scientific evidence has proven the value of prehospital 12-lead ECGs in improving patient care of those having ST elevation MIs (STEMI). In West Virginia, cardiologists and EMS leaders agree that early notification and routing of potential STEMI patients is critical to improving emergency cardiac care.

Crucial to the success of such a program is the ability of EMS personnel to acquire 12-leads. Currently, 74% of ALS agencies in the state have some level of 12-lead capability. Approximately 59% of licensed EMS vehicles have 12-leads.

Accordingly, EMS agencies considering purchasing cardiac monitors should incorporate 12-lead capability into new monitors. Though no specific date has been selected, it is likely that 12-lead ECG acquisition will be required on ALS staffed ambulances around mid-year of 2009.

You will be advised when a target date is set. Please feel free to contact me if you have further questions.

JK/jf

pc: William Ramsey, M.D.

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