



HEMS INC.
HEALTH EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES, INC.

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**MEMBERS AND
AFFILIATED
ORGANIZATIONS**

Botsford Hospital
Detroit Receiving
Hospital
Garden City Hospital
Henry Ford Center for
Health Services -
Brownstown
Henry Ford Medical
Center - Fairlane
Henry Ford Hospital -
Detroit Campus
Henry Ford Wyandotte
Hospital
Oakwood Hospital &
Medical Center
Oakwood Annapolis
Hospital
Oakwood Heritage
Hospital
Oakwood Southshore
Medical Center
Providence Park
Hospital
Sinai-Grace Hospital
St. Joseph Mercy
Hospital - Ann Arbor
St. Mary Mercy
Hospital - Livonia
University of Michigan
Health System
Wayne County
Department of
Public Health
Western Wayne County
Fire Department
Mutual Aid Association

AUXILIARY MEMBERS

Concord EMS
Downriver Mutual Aid
Fire Service Division
Unisys Corporation

**CONTRIBUTING
ORGANIZATIONS**

Oakwood Healthcare
Center - Canton
VA Medical Center -
Detroit

To: All Life Support Agencies in HEMS MCA
From: HEMS Jon Unruh, HEMS Communications Chairperson
Robert Miljan, HEMS, Inc.
Date: January 14, 2011
Re: FCC Narrowband Requirements; UHF Systems

New regulations from the Federal Communications Commission require that by January 1, 2013, all radio transmitters operating in the VHF and UHF bands operate in a narrowband mode. By reducing the bandwidth occupied by each radio channel, twice as many channels will become available. Two-way radios purchased in the last 8 years or so are probably capable of narrowband operation, but older equipment will likely have to be replaced.

In preparation for this new technology, HEMS VHF base stations (155.340 MHz and 155.400 MHz) have been replaced with narrowband-capable radios. The UHF (Med Channel) repeaters, however, are older. As more and more providers shift their operations to 800 MHz systems, most notably the Michigan Public Safety Communications System (MPSCS), the reliance on UHF by EMS providers has decreased significantly. Therefore, the HEMS Board of Trustees has authorized with Medical Control Advisory Board support a phase-out of our UHF resources. EMS providers operating in the HEMS service area will be able to access HEMS on the required VHF channels, or via any of the 800 MHz networks. MPSCS mobile and portable radios will be made available for lease through HEMS by public or private EMS agencies alike, and MPSCS subscriber radios already in use will be allowed access to the proprietary HEMS talkgroups.

Communications with HEMS member hospitals will be handled the same way that they are now: EMS units call HEMS for a patch to the appropriate facility. By migrating to this technologically superior system, patient care communications will be much clearer, more reliable, and cover a wider geographic area. In fact, MPSCS users can access HEMS and our member hospitals from anywhere in Michigan.

For more information on the MPSCS radio network, visit www.michigan.gov/mpscs. To inquire about leasing MPSCS radios for use on the HEMS network, contact the HEMS office at 734-727-7280.

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MCAB Approved 10-10