

Advisory

TO: Long-Term Care Facilities
Ambulance Services
EMCAB Members

FROM: Paul Dreyer, Associate Commissioner
Center for Health Quality Assurance and Control

Louise Goyette, Director
Office of Emergency Medical Services

Jon Burstein, MD
State EMS Medical Director

DATE: June 28, 2004

RE: Pronouncement of Death

Please be advised that there is no state authority, under any statute or regulation of the Commonwealth, for EMTs, at any level of certification, to pronounce a patient dead. If EMTs are called to a facility and health care professionals are performing cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) on a patient, the EMTs are to continue CPR and transport the patient to the appropriate health care facility.