



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

BUREAU OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY

2300 E STREET NW

WASHINGTON DC 20372-5300

IN REPLY REFER TO

APR 15 2008

MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDER, NAVY MEDICINE WEST
COMMANDER, NAVY MEDICINE NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA
COMMANDER, NAVY MEDICINE EAST
COMMANDER, NAVY MEDICINE SUPPORT COMMAND

SUBJECT: Advanced Life Support in Obstetrics (ALSO) Course for Healthcare Providers
Rendering Emergent Maternity Care

The American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) ALSO course is designed to train providers, nurses and support staff in the skills necessary to respond to obstetrical emergencies in labor and delivery or emergency room environments. The academic training involves both didactic and hands-on education in the management of various scenarios, such as shoulder dystocia, post-partum hemorrhage, non-reassuring fetal heart tracings, hypertensive emergencies, and operative vaginal delivery. In addition to knowledge based and psychomotor skills development, the course also emphasizes communication and team-work strategies to enhance cooperation between all caregivers. All obstetrical providers, nurses and support staff are strongly encouraged to complete ALSO training regardless of platform assignment status.

Regional Commanders, Commanding Officers and Residency Training Program Directors will encourage maximum participation in training. Regional Commanders will ensure widest dissemination of training course times and locations to Military Treatment Facilities (MTFs). Naval Medical Manpower Personnel Training and Education (NMMPT&E) Staff Education and Training (SEAT) Liaison Department Head will act as a conduit for information and policy distribution between program managers and MTF SEATs. Local MTFs will ensure ALSO courses are scheduled and coordinated with the ALSO Program Manager and that health care staff will have training opportunities for patient safety concerns during resuscitation and stabilization. Funding for the ALSO program and training materials has been centrally funded by BUMED for Fiscal Year (FY) 2008.

BUMED (M3) has funded each Medical Center with one instructor course during FY 2008 for those interested in becoming ALSO instructors. After completion of the ALSO instructor course, instructors will apply for Faculty Advisor status through the AAFP to assist in future courses. ALSO approved instructors are required to teach three ALSO provider classes within a five year period to maintain status as an instructor. Local MTF SEAT Departments will maintain a current roster of ALSO approved instructors and providers. ALSO instructors are required by AAFP to maintain an active maternity care practice, either personally, or through supervision of residents in order to maintain active status.

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