

## Narrowbanding FAQ

- *I have a narrowband capable radio, am I ready?* If you have a narrowband capable radio, you must verify that it is loaded with the MIEMSS Radio Template. The easiest way to determine this is to see if you have the UTAC channels in your radio. These would be located in the UTAC group or channels 151 to 156.
- *Why do I need all of the channels specified on the MIEMSS Radio Template and can I remove the ones that I will never use?* The MIEMSS Radio Template was established to create interoperability in the State of Maryland and it is a requirement to have all of the channels in order to receive reimbursement under the grant program. In addition, MIEMSS will be re-assigning channels in some areas during the conversion.
- *Will there be funding available after June 30, 2012?* No, the grant period ends June 30<sup>th</sup> and the funding will be exhausted
- *Will I be able to operate a non-narrowband radio after January 1, 2013?* It will be in violation of Federal law to operate a radio in a non-narrowband mode and Federal fines will be assessed to the user after January 1, 2013.
- *Will I be able to operate in a wideband mode after the region has been converted to narrowband?* Operation in a wideband mode after the region has been converted will result in distorted audio to the hospitals and low audio from the hospitals. It will be illegal to operate in the wideband mode after January 1, 2013.
- *What happens to the wideband channels in the radio after January 1, 2013?* MIEMSS will remove the old wideband channels during the Volunteer Ambulance inspections and other targets of opportunity. There is currently no established funding source to remove these from every radio.
- *Does MIEMSS buy and install the radios?* No, MIEMSS has established a 100 percent reimbursable grant program. It is each jurisdictional EMSOP's (county or individual company) responsibility to procure the radio and have it installed. In order to receive reimbursement, you must follow the grant rules.
- *We operate off a county 800 MHz radio system for EMS communications, so why do I need a UHF radio?* MIEMSS encourages all jurisdictions to maintain the UHF radio capability to provide for interoperability in all jurisdictions. In addition, the MIEMSS provided radio is installed in the patient care compartment where typically county radios are not installed and poor portable coverage is to be expected.
- *If I get a replacement unit, will MIEMSS provide a radio?* If the vehicle being replaced has a narrowband capable radio installed, that radio would be relocated into the new vehicle. If the vehicle being replaced does not have a narrowband capable radio, then the new vehicle is eligible for a new radio under the Narrowband Radio Grant program.

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- *If I get an additional unit, will MIEMSS provide a radio through the grant process?* If an additional unit is obtained to enlarge the field provider's fleet, the field provider may apply for a radio through the Narrowband Radio grant program through June 30, 2012.
- *Can I add additional channels to the programming?* Additional channels are allowed in channels 51-100 for interoperability with hospitals outside of Maryland.
- *Can I purchase a different model or manufacture's radio under the MIEMSS Radio Grant?*  
No
- *Where must the radio provided under the MIEMSS Radio Grant be located?* The patient care compartment of the vehicle is the only acceptable location for the radio supplied through the grant program.
- *Do I need to license or need to update a license for the change to narrowband?* While operating in Maryland on the MIEMSS UHF Radio Systems the user is operating under licenses held by MIEMSS. MIEMSS is currently in the process of updating all licenses to support the narrowband transition and no action is needed on the part of the EMSOP.
- *How can I identify if my radio is narrowband capable?* See the pictures below for the acceptable narrowband capable radios. If you do not have one of these radios, you should contact your Regional Administrator. Note: MIEMSS has deployed two styles of Kenwood mobiles; the acceptable radio has a round microphone connector with an attachment screw.

### Narrowband Capable Mobile and Portable Radios

