



March 25, 2015

Dear Agency Leaders and EMS Providers:

It is hard to believe that we are almost through the first quarter of 2015. When I first wrote to our agency leadership in January I said there were “exciting things happening” in our region, that was an understatement. The council, REMAC physicians, and Program Agency staff have been busier than ever before. I know this letter is a bit lengthy, but there are several important items I want to keep all agencies and providers informed about.

2015 Protocol Update

As detailed in the letter sent on January 30th to agencies and ALS Providers, updates to the collaborative protocols will go into effect on April 1, 2015 at 0001hrs. At that time all prior versions of the protocols will be invalid. As part of this rollout every ALS provider is required to complete online training modules and an exam. NMORE details can be found in this letter or on our website. **As a reminder, any ALS provider who has not completed and passed the exam by April 1st will have practice privileges automatically suspended region-wide. Agencies are responsible for verifying provider privileges via the testing website.** Additionally, agencies who are unable to comply with the formulary requirements by this date should notify the SREMS office. Please note that Haldol will be available at the hospital pharmacies, contrary to older information in the training slideshow.

New iPhone and Android protocol apps are being developed to support this version of the protocols. These apps will be used by all of the collaborating regions. The developer tells us these will both be ready shortly. The release of these apps will be announced on the SREMS website and Facebook page, as well as emailed to agency leaders.

REMAC Policies

On March 12th 2015 the Susquehanna Regional EMS Council approved the following REMAC policies (copies enclosed). These will only apply to transporting agencies.

- 15-01 Timely Completion and Submission of PCRs to the Receiving Hospital
- 15-02 Medically Facilitated Intubation

“15-01 Timely Completion and Submission of PCRs to the Receiving Hospital” reinforces what we hope is already being performed. Specifically that documentation is being left at the hospital prior to crew departure to allow for a seamless, documented transition of care. This documentation does not have to be an entire PCR, but must include the Minimum Data Set (MDS) as defined by NYS DOH BEMST Policy 12-03. The MDS includes: Patient demographics, presenting problem, assessment findings, vital signs, and treatment rendered. Additionally, the REMAC interprets “assessment findings” to include ECG strips and 12-leads.

A tool for ImageTrend users is the existing tab, containing all the MDS fields, labeled “Hospital Report.” ImageTrend users can complete the Hospital Report tab on either portable computers/tablets or the PCs provided in each hospital’s EMS room and post the chart prior to departure. Non-ImageTrend agencies or agencies unable to post this MDS electronically should take steps to ensure EMS providers are leaving this information in a paper-format at the emergency department prior to departure. These agencies can also use the computers in the EMS rooms to print, if needed.

“15-02 Medically Facilitated Intubation” provides a structure for agencies who wish to receive REMAC approval to provide MFI services. The policy allows agencies to build a training program to teach and maintain their paramedics to utilize this protocol. Agencies interested in developing a training program are encouraged to contact the SREMS office for any support or guidance needed in developing an acceptable program.

Training and Education

The 12-lead ECG Interpretation Course, hosted by UHS, was a great success and we were happy so many providers were able to attend. SREMS is once again a platinum sponsor of the upcoming UHS Trauma Teaching Day, April 18th at the Double Tree by Hilton Hotel in downtown Binghamton. This provides a phenomenal opportunity for providers at all levels to get CMEs locally. Don't forget to stop by the SREMS booth! Please contact UHS for more information and to register at 607-763-6311.

EMS Week

EMS week is May 17th - 23rd and we invite all agencies to show their vehicles at the Oakdale Mall May 15th - 16th. This provides a unique opportunity for you to do outreach and education in the community you serve. Agencies interested should contact the SREMS office by April 11th to participate.

Diversion

Hospital diversion is something that affects all agencies in our region. I want to assure you that the council is keenly aware of the affects this has on our agencies. I have personally met with the senior leadership of both UHS and Lourdes on this issue and all parties understand the gravity of diversion. The council has convened a special committee to identify a collaborative solution to this problem. If you have an issue involving patient diversion please (1) document the diversion in your ePCR and (2) agencies are encouraged to notify the SREMS office.

Narcan Distribution Program

SREMS is working with our non-EMS Fire Departments and BLS agencies to distribute, train, and restock Narcan at no cost region wide. We have currently distributed over 150 doses. If you know of an agency interested in participating please have them contact the SREMS office.

I know this letter contained a lot of information and I thank you for your time reviewing each of these items. This letter and other council communications can be found on our website for future review. As always I continue to look for feedback, ideas, and suggestions on how we can improve EMS in our region and how SREMS can support our agencies better. Please do not hesitate to reach out directly to myself (president@srems.com) or contact the SREMS office.

Sincerely,



Michael A. Ponticiello,
President