

# THE REGIONAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COUNCIL OF NEW YORK CITY, INC.

## Regional Emergency Medical Advisory Committee

### Minutes

September 15, 2009

The Regional Emergency Medical Advisory Committee (REMAC) of New York City met on Tuesday, September 15, 2009 at the Offices of the Regional EMS Council of NYC, 475 Riverside Drive, Lounge, New York City. This meeting can be viewed via webcast at [www.nycremsco.org](http://www.nycremsco.org).

	<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
<b>Burn Surgeon (1)</b>	Roger Yurt, MD	
<b>EMS Community Emergency Department Director (3)</b>	Allen Cherson, DO	
	Katherine Vlascia, MD	
<b>EMS Community Emergency Department Nurses (2)</b>		Jeffrey Horwitz, DO (excused)
		Vacant
<b>EMS Community Emergency Department Administrators (2)</b>	Jack Finkelstein, alternate for Clifford Miller	Vacant
		Vacant
<b>Fire Department, City of New York</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commissioner or Non-Physician Designee</li> </ul>		John Peruggia
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Medical Director (3)</li> </ul>	David Prezant, MD	
	Glenn Asaeda, MD	
	Bradley Kaufman, MD	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Online Medical Control Physicians (2)</li> </ul>	Doug Isaacs, MD	
		John Freese, MD
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emergency Medical Technicians (Basic/Paramedic)</li> </ul>	Dinorah Claudio, EMTP	
<b>Greater New York Hospital Association</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>President or Non-Physician Designee (1)</li> </ul>	Alison Burke	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emergency Physician (1)</li> </ul>	Jeffrey Rabrich, MD, alternate for Stephen G. Lynn, MD	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ambulance Service Medical Director (1)</li> </ul>	<b>Heidi Cordi, MD, Second Vice Chair</b>	

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	<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On Line Medical Control Physicians (2)</li> </ul>	<b>Lewis Marshall, JD, MD Chair</b>	
		Josef Schenker, MD (excused)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emergency Department Administrator (2)</li> </ul>	Christopher McCarthy, MD	
	Frank Mineo, PhD, EMTP	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emergency Medical Technicians (Basic/Paramedic) (2)</li> </ul>	Anthony Conrardy, EMTP	
		Vacant
<b>Medical Standards Committee</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BLS Physician (1)</li> </ul>	David Ben-Eli, MD	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ALS Physician (1)</li> </ul>		Vacant
<b>Medical Society of New York Physician (1)</b>	Peter Wyer, MD	
<b>New York City Department of Health &amp; Mental Hygiene- Emergency Preparedness Program Physician (1)</b>	Lewis Soloff, MD	
<b>New York City Health &amp; Hospitals Corporation Physician (1)</b>	Lorraine M. Giordano, MD	
<b>New York City Police Department Physician (1)</b>	Charles Martinez, MD Victor Politi, MD, alternate	
<b>NYS Volunteer Ambulance &amp; Rescue Association/District 4 &amp; 18</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ambulance Service Medical Director (1)</li> </ul>	<b>Joseph Bove, MD, First Vice Chair</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emergency Medical Technicians (Basic/Paramedic) (2)</li> </ul>		Ralph Cefalo, EMT
	Martin Grillo, EMTP	

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	<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
<b>Pediatric Emergency Medicine Physician (1)</b>		George Foltin, MD
<b>Psychiatric Emergency Medicine Physician (1)</b>		Vacant
<b>Regional EMS Council NYC Physician (1)</b>		Vacant
<b>Trauma Surgeon (1)</b>	Arthur Cooper, MD	
<b>Training &amp; Education Committee Physician (1)</b>		Eliot Lazar, MD
<b>United New York Ambulance Network (UNYAN)</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ambulance Service Medical Director (1)</li> </ul>	Victor Politi, MD	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emergency Medical Technicians (Basic/Paramedic) (2)</li> </ul>		Vacant
		Vacant

STAFF

Nancy Benedetto, Executive Director Administration  
 Marie Diglio, EMTP, Executive Director Operations  
 Joseph Raneri, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator

GUESTS

Dario Gonzalez, MD  
 Yedidyah Langsam, PhD, EMTP  
 Kevin Munjal  
 Jack Quigley  
 David Lobel  
 Mordechai Goldfeder  
 Sylvia Tschernjansky  
 Barry Smith  
 Jay Reich  
 Robert Goldstein

Dr. Marshall called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. For the purposes of web casting, a roll call was performed. A quorum was present.

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Although it was not in order of the published Agenda, Dr. Marshall allowed Dr. Dario Gonzalez, FDNY OMA, to present information on proposed changes to triage. This was done in order to allow members from the Medical Standards Committee to be present and participate.

The REMAC discussed the proposal and will continue discussion at the next meeting. Members were asked to email comments to Marie Diglio at [mdiglio@nycremsco.org](mailto:mdiglio@nycremsco.org). Additional information will be emailed to members prior to the October 20 meeting.

Returning to the Agenda, Dr. Marshall asked if there were any corrections to the June 16, 2009 Minutes. After hearing no changes, the REMAC Meeting minutes were accepted as written.

## **CORRESPONDENCE REPORT**

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### ***The Offices of the Council received the following correspondence:***

#### **Membership:**

- The following members requested to be excused:
  - Jeffrey Horwitz, DO; Josef Schenker, MD;

#### **From FDNY:**

- Monthly drill and journal cme for:
  - August 2009: Fracture Management handout and facilitator guide.
  - September 2009: Pediatric Assessment handout and facilitator guide.
- 4<sup>th</sup> quarterly Program Agency Report.
- PCR monthly inventory report for May 2009, June 2009, July 2009.

#### **From NYS DOH:**

- Copy of a letter to John Gupta, CEO St. John's Episcopal Hospital stating it has been approved as a Stroke Center.
- Letter requesting that REMAC stop issuing "Limited ALS" approvals.
  - Due to implied liability, it was agreed that REMAC would cease providing this level of approval. The one (1) agency currently approved, Corona VAC, was contacted and advised that their status was disapproved. Corona applied as a full ALS service and was approved.
  - Brochure for Vital Signs 2009 to be held in Rochester, NY on October 15 – 18, 2009.

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- Public Notice from New York State Department of Health, Bureau of EMS, Operations Unit, to be read into the REMAC Minutes of the following enforcement actions:

Provider Name	EMT #	Penalty	Violation of	County of Operation
Edward Ashley	273953	3-month suspension of EMTP starting 7/29/09 and a \$2000 fine	Not identified	West Sand Lake
Jeffrey Mondo	338694	Suspension from 8/14/09 through 11/01/09	Part 800.15 (a) and 800.16 (a)	Lackawanna

## Other:

- Email from Daryl Mazlish, Jamaica Estates VAC, announcing that North Shore University Hospital will be offering free seasonal flu shots to all active ambulance personnel from local volunteer ambulance companies. This is not the H1N1 vaccination, but the yearly seasonal type. This will be done on September 23, 24 & 25.
  - *Staff note: I thought this was a wonderful way for hospitals to interact with and assist their local VAC's, so I included it in this report.*
- Letter from First Response Ambulance stating the company never received documentation regarding mandatory implementation of either Albuterol or aspirin. It affirmed that all ambulances are no equipped with these medications and administration tools.
  - *This was in response to a letter from REMAC advising First Response that we had received a complaint alleging non-compliance with regional protocols.*
- Letter from Columbia University EMS stating they will be converting to electronic PCR's.
- Notice of public hearing from the NYS Assembly: Prescription drug abuse, September 10, 2009
- Announcement of EMS Night, September 12, 2009 at CitiField.
- The following agencies submitted protocol update information: (incomplete listing)
  - Primary Care Ambulance Corp
  - Forest Hills VAC
- Epinephrine Auto-Injector Notice of Intent forms (hard copy & via email) from: (incomplete listing)
  - Lutheran Medical center EMS

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- Ridgewood VAC
  - Lindenwood VAC
  - BRAVO
  - Columbia University EMS
  - Maimonides medical Center EMS
  - FDNY EMS
  - New York Racing Association
  - Jamaica Estates VAC
- Save the date flyer from NY Downtown Hospital: 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Emergency Preparedness Symposium, September 10, 2009

## **On Line Medical Control:**

- Credentialing information from Michael Zimmerman, MD (New York Hospital Queens).

## ***The Office of the Council sent the following correspondence:***

- Letter to John Peruggia, Chief of EMS, FDNY, stating the Council is in negotiations with the Office of Homeland Security in order to provide new NIOSH approved escape hoods to non-municipal regional ambulance agencies.
- Chief Peruggia responded and asked that he be kept informed of our progress.
- Letter to Councilmember Alan Jay Gerson thanking him for supporting the two-medical system in NYC and supporting his position that EMS not be reduced.
- *This was in response to a letter from the Councilmember.*
- Letter to Wyckoff Heights Hospital EMS renewing approval of ALS status of agency # 0686.
- Letter to Nicholas O'Brien, Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance, advising that the Park Slope VAC can function on-site (Governor's Island) as a first aid station. This was done with approval of NYS DOH.
- *Associated letter was sent to Matthew Pintchik, CEO, Park Slope VAC.*
- Letter to Joseph DeMorato, Priority One Ambulance Inc, approving its application to become an ALS (Paramedic) service. The letter states that the agency must submit an acceptable controlled substance application to the NYS DOH for this approval to be active.

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- Letter to Senator Frank Padavan reminding him that REMAC did respond to his earlier query regarding EMT-Critical Care providers in the NYC region.
  - *This was in response to a letter from the Senator rebuking REMAC from not responding to his request. The Senator was sent a memo and a copy of our earlier (and timely) response.*
- Agendas, Minutes and associated attachments for the September 2009 meetings.

## **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

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### **Medical Standards Committee** (*Josef Schenker, MD, Vice Chair*)

The Medical Standards Committee met immediately prior to REMAC.

Dr. Kaufman reported for Dr. Schenker that the Protocol Committee met on Tuesday, September 8, 2009 at 12 noon at the New York Methodist Hospital, Brooklyn. The following are action items:

**Protocol Implementation Schedule:** (Comes in the form of a seconded motion from the Medical Standards Committee)

- Protocols will be revised and implemented one (1) time per year. REMAC retains the ability to implement protocol changes in order to address issues of life threatening impact.
- Protocol revision/implementation calendar shall be as follows: All protocols approved by REMAC and SEMAC as of January 1<sup>st</sup>, will be issued to all regional EMS agencies on that date. Implementation date will be the following April 1<sup>st</sup>, which provides a 90-day training window.

***REMAC discussed and approved this motion.***

**Flu Procedure:** (Comes in the form of a seconded motion from the Medical Standards Committee)

Medical Standards recommended approval of the new Flu Advisory, once revised, with an implementation date of October 15, 2009.

***REMAC discussed and approved this motion.***

The next Medical Standards Committee meeting will be on October 20, 2009.

## REGIONAL COUNCIL UPDATE

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The Regional Emergency Medical Services Council of New York City met on June 23, 2009

- Program Agency budgets were sent to the NYS DOH. New contracts are being processed.
- No Determinations of Public Need were received.
- No Transfer of Operating Authority applications were received.
- Public Access Defibrillation (Pad) Notifications
  - 21 New and 24 Renewing PAD Program applications were received from April 3 through June 10, 2009.
- The POD Plan Matrix was discussed and approved. Background: Due to Anthrax events, REMSCO worked with the NYC DOH and NYC OEM to develop a method of rapid distribution of necessary medications to pre-hospital sector (non-municipal). Now that H1N1 has occurred, the need to deployment of this rapid distribution of medications to our non-municipal providers. REMAC agreed to act as medical provider to receive medications.
- REMSCO discussed the agreement with OHS regarding new escape hoods and that MSA has reneged on this contract. OHS has been notified. REMSCO stated that a notice must be sent to all agencies telling them to keep the escape hood in their possession, even if expired. If this agreement is eventually honored, the old hoods may have to be returned. FDNY was also notified.
- Nine (9) renewing course sponsor applications were approved.
- Kingsborough County College application for BLS course sponsor was approved
- Bedford-Stuyvesant VAC application for BLS course sponsor was denied.
- ELECTIONS
  - The Committee selected the following individuals for At-Large seats, for the term beginning July 1, 2009:
    - Yedidyah Langsam, PhD, EMTP
    - Martin Grillo, EMTP

The next meeting of the Regional Council Committee will be September 22, 2009.

**JOINT REMSCO/REMAC QA COMMITTEE UPDATE (JOSEPH SCHENKER, MD, CHAIR)**

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Dr. Arthur Cooper reported the Joint Regional Emergency Medical Services Council/Regional Emergency Medical Advisory Committee (REMAC) Quality Improvement Committee met on Tuesday, September 1, 2009.

**The following were discussed:**

1. Patient Care Restriction

FDNY did provide the Committee with a copy of its policy, which was disseminated to members for informational purposes. It was stated that SEMSCo/SEMAC has affirmed all remac's authority to restrict both BLS and ALS level providers within their respective regions.

2. Paramedic Cards

The QA Committee requested that a listing of credentialed NYC REMAC Paramedics be posted on the Council's website. Agencies will be notified and advised to review this posting as part of pre-employment review.

3. QA Studies

The QA Committee must identify items that it wishes to study. Once the studies are identified, a medical resident create the study and tools. The REMSCO office will collect the data. This data will be provided to the resident for input and evaluation.

Next meeting of QA will be announced once scheduled.

***REMAC discussed the issue of NYS DOH suspensions/revocations. The NYS DOH will be asked if they have identified any trends with regards to these actions (i.e., related to alcohol or substance abuse).***

**STATE EMS COUNCIL/SEMAC UPDATE**

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The State EMS Council and SEMAC met on September 2 & 3, 2009. The following are meeting highlights. The complete meeting can be viewed on the NYS DOH website.

1. EMS Bureau Director Ed Wronski will retire this fall. His final work days will (appropriately) be during Thanksgiving week. Lee Burns, currently Acting Deputy Director of the Bureau, will be Acting Director.
2. The Vital Signs 2009 conference will be held on the October 15 – 18 in Rochester. Go to [www.vitalsignsconference.com](http://www.vitalsignsconference.com) for details.

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3. Pulse Check 2009, the annual conference of the NYS Volunteer Ambulance and Rescue Association, will be held on October 1-4. See [www.nysvara.org/pulseCheck.html](http://www.nysvara.org/pulseCheck.html) for details.
4. A Finance Committee proposal to realign course funding brought considerable feedback from Course Sponsors, Regional Councils, and Program Agencies. The general consensus of about 70% of the correspondents was that elimination of reimbursement for EMT-I original and refresher, EMT-CC original and Paramedic original courses was not acceptable. The Finance Committee will revisit course funding at their final meeting of this year.
5. A 2010-2011 budget of \$23,539,320 for EMS in New York was proposed by the Finance Committee and approved by SEMSCO. By law, this will be forwarded to the Health Commissioner and on to the Legislature.
6. The Safety Committee is pleased to report that Bureau Incident Reporting Form is complete. See Policy # 09-08 at [www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/ems/policy/policy.htm](http://www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/ems/policy/policy.htm).
7. Medical Standards approved adding Solu-Cortef to the NYS ALS formulary.
8. DOH discussed the Department's Emergency Regulation requiring seasonal and H1N1 influenza vaccinations for all health care workers (HCWs) in Article 28 facilities who have patient contact. Compliance is required by November 30<sup>th</sup> (this window may move based on H1N1 vaccine availability). The mandate does not extend to prehospital care providers unless they are employed by a hospital or nursing home. It does, however, extend to EMS students doing clinical rotations in hospitals or Emergency Departments. Additional information can be found at: [www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/ems/communicable\\_disease/h1n1\\_swine/index.htm](http://www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/ems/communicable_disease/h1n1_swine/index.htm).
9. SEMAC did not have a quorum but they recommended the Bureau work with DOH to step up training EMS providers on influenza vaccinations and antiviral medications. If pandemic burdens overload local resources, EMS may be requested to participate in vaccinations and/or antiviral medication distribution.
10. NFPA ([www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org)) decided to develop a standard for ambulance design. The first meeting was held over the summer (June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009). This group will ultimately consist of 30 members divided evenly into 10 representatives from manufacturers, 10 from users, and 10 from regulators. Once NFPA develops and issues an ambulance design standard, the federal KKK specifications will no longer be revised.
11. New York has finally agreed to begin collecting NEMSIS (the National EMS Information System, see: [www.nemsis.org/](http://www.nemsis.org/)) standard data elements in our PCR system.

12. FDNY proposal to implement response of a rapid organ recovery ambulance equipped to preserve organs of patients pronounced in the field when consent for donation had previously been given is back on track to start a trial run of the program shortly.
13. Training and Education voted to roll out the new EMT curriculum in NYS on September 1, 2011. EMS curricula at all levels have been completely revised. Go to [www.ems.gov](http://www.ems.gov) and click on the Education tab.
14. Starting this fall (September 2009), Student Applications must contain an agency code if you plan to seek DOH funding for EMS students in certification courses. Vouchers will be adjusted to deny funding for any student without an agency code on their Student App. One more reason to carefully look over those yellow forms before sending them on to the Bureau...
15. A discrepancy between Part 800 and KKK specs exists: Part 800.22 (b) requires ambulances be capable of carrying two recumbent patients. KKK-A-1822F (7/2007) 3.10.3 calls for an ambulance crew seating design with a seatbelt, padded back and padded headrest positioned to allow care of the primary patient. Ambulances built to this newest standard may not also be able to accommodate a second supine patient. Until DOH can revise 800.22, they have directed field reps to notate compliance with the latest KKK spec on their inspection report and not to fail the inspection when the new KKK spec is properly met. The Bureau noted that they have no desire to neither discourage purchase of safer ambulances nor make agencies expend additional funds to comply with both 800.22 and KKK 3.10.3.
16. Admit Computer Services is one of the scarce OGS approved vendors for CAD (Computer Aided Dispatch) systems. Their product, Impact<sup>®</sup>, is sold largely in New York and New Jersey as a soup to nuts "state of the art" CAD (see: <http://impact-sys.com/>). Difficulties regarding this system were discussed.
17. Medical Standards took a grid of skills and procedures done in the back of a moving ambulance by unbelted EMS providers and categorized what should, should not, and what could be done with caution. They will provide this at the December meeting.
18. SEMAC still needs to tackle the bleeding control using tourniquet issue in an effort to standardize care across the provider levels in New York State (Medics go directly to application of a tourniquet when direct pressure fails to control external extremity bleeding while all other providers continue to try elevation, pressure points, and pressure bandages before considering tourniquets).
19. The final 2009 SEMAC and SEMSCO meetings are scheduled for December 1 and 2, to be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, State & Lodge Streets in Albany, NY 12207.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

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No report.

**NEW BUSINESS**

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REMAC members continued discussion regarding flu vaccinations for EMS providers. After discussion REMAC made the following motion: REMAC strongly recommends all EMS providers be immunized for both the seasonal and the H1N1 virus. The motion was passed unanimously. A REMAC Advisory will be issued.

Dr. Marshall asked that the REMAC Bylaws be revised to include additional seats: 3 non-voting (2 At Large, 1 Public). A Pharmacist is being sought.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm. The next meeting of the REMAC Committee will be October 20, 2009.