

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

Regional Emergency Medical Advisory Committee

Minutes

October 20, 2009

The Regional Emergency Medical Advisory Committee (REMAC) of New York City met on Tuesday, October 20, 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.

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

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

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

STAFF

Nancy Benedetto, Executive Director Administration
 Marie Diglio, EMTP, Executive Director Operations

GUESTS

Yedidyah Langsam, PhD, EMTP
 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.

In memory of Dr. Gary Lombardi, a moment of silence was called. Dr. Lombardi was an integral part of EMS in NYC since the 1970's. He became a paramedic in the first paramedic class in NYC, then went on to become an emergency physician. His involvement with the training and medical control of NYC paramedics will not be forgotten.

Dr. Marshall asked if there were any corrections to the September 15, 2009 Minutes. After hearing no changes, the REMAC Meeting minutes were accepted as written.

CORRESPONDENCE REPORT

The Offices of the Council received the following correspondence:

Membership:

- The following members requested to be excused:
 - Geoffrey Doughlin, MD; Doug Isaacs, MD; Allen Cherson, DO; Ralph Cefalo, EMT;

From FDNY:

- PCR monthly inventory report for August 2009, June 2009, July 2009.

From NYS DOH:

- Letter stating the FDNY has again appealed REMAC's decision regarding FDNY's request to lower staffing standards from dual to single medic on transporting ambulance in the 911 system.
 - Staff note: REMAC's decision was that in order to do no harm, a study must first be conducted before changing a citywide staffing standard that has stood for more than 25 years.
 - A response was sent to NYS DOH stating no study has been conducted jointly with REMAC, so REMAC's decision remains unchanged.
- **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
Court Cousins	250593	Suspended 1 year (10/7/09 – 10/7/10)	800.15(b), 800.16(a)	Syosset
Samuel Setter	159405	Suspended effective 9/21/09	Failure to comply with a previous stipulation and order	Avoca

Other:

- Email from James Downey, expressing concern over the proposed new triage protocol.

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- Email from Arthur Cooper, MD, responding to Mr. Downey's concerns.
- Email from Allen Cherson, DO, expressing concern over the proposed new triage protocol.
- State Assembly notice of public hearing on October 29, 2009, regarding proposed revision of the anatomical gift act.
- Bankruptcy notice fro Cabrini Hospital
- CPAP ePCR data from North Shore University Hospital for QA Committee
- Epinephrine Auto-Injector Notice of Intent forms (hard copy & via email) from: (incomplete listing)
 - Little Neck Douglaston VAC
 - New York Hospital Queens
 - BRAVO VAC

On Line Medical Control:

- No new information

The Office of the Council sent the following correspondence:

- Letter NYS DOH affirming REMAC's decision regarding staffing standards.
- Agendas, Minutes and associated attachments for the October 2009 meetings.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Medical Standards Committee (*Joseph Bove, MD, Chair*)

The Medical Standards Committee met immediately prior to REMAC. The following items were presented by the Protocol Committee and approved by REMAC. Items not approved or returned to subcommittee are not listed, and can be identified in the Medical Standards Minutes. All Protocol votes were conducted by roll-call and can be viewed on the REMSCO website's webcast page. Approved protocol revisions will be submitted to SEMAC for review and approval.

Appendix L: TRIAGE

- Addition of an ORANGE category between RED and YELLOW

General Operating Procedures

- Oxygen Administration – Removal of treatment based purely on respiratory rate. [RESPIRATORY RATES STILL IN STATE]
- Removal of mouth – to – mouth or mouth –to – nose rescue breathing
- Initiating Transport – Modified to address the need for protocol-specific prioritization of transport versus ALS care.
- Communications with Medical Control Facilities – Removal of 20 minute rule for OLMC contact. *[Agencies should develop and implement their own operational policies regarding excessive on-scene time]*
- Prehospital Sedation – Addition of etomidate only for short-lived procedures. *[All uses of Etomidate for this purpose must be reported to REMAC for QA.]*

BLS Protocols

401 – Respiratory Distress / Failure

- Removal of treatment based purely on respiratory rate. [RESPIRATORY RATES STILL IN STATE PROTOCOLS]

421 – Head and Spine Injuries

- Clarification of NEXUS criteria within selective immobilization section.

423 – Chest Injuries

- Removal of bulky dressing for treatment of flail segments. [STILL IN STATE PROTOCOLS]

425 – Bone and Joint Injuries

- Added note to reinforce concept for ALS assistance for pain management.
- Clarification that use of traction splint is for 'closed' femur fractures

428 – Burns

- Added note to reinforce concept for ALS assistance for pain management.
- Changed dressings from saline-moistened to dry. [MUST CHECK STATE PROTOCOLS]

430 – Emotionally Disturbed Patient

- Added note to reinforce concept for ALS assistance for sedation when necessary (i.e. violent patient).

431 – Heat-Related Emergencies

- Removal of recommendation that patients drink normal saline.

ALS Protocols

500-A and 500-B – Smoke / Cyanide

- Clarification specific to the use of sodium thiosulfate.

502 – Obstructed Airway

- Added language to describe intended right main-stem displacement.

- Also, removal of needle Cricothyroidotomy. [*Rescue and Tactical medic protocols retain this procedure.*]
- 503-A – Ventricular Fibrillation / Pulseless Ventricular Tachycardia
- Modification of recommendation for biphasic energies.
- 503-B – Pulseless Electrical Activity (PEA) / Asystole
- Addition of dextrose administration.
- 504 – Suspected Myocardial Infarction
- Note added to reinforce need for OLMC contact.
 - Change to prioritize transport over IV initiation.
- 505-A – Supraventricular Tachycardia
- Modification of recommendation for biphasic energies.
- 505-B – Atrial Fibrillation/Atrial Flutter
- Modification of recommendation for biphasic energies.
- 505-C – Ventricular Tachycardia with a Pulse / Wide Complex Tachycardia of Uncertain Type
- Modification of recommendation for biphasic energies.
- 505-D – Bradydysrhythmias and Complete Heart Block
- Removal of epinephrine infusion.
- 506 – Acute Pulmonary Edema
- Modification placing furosemide into OLMC options rather than as standing order.
- 510 – Anaphylactic Reaction
- Removal of epinephrine infusion.
- 521- Head Injuries
- Addition of language to guide controlled hyperventilation in the case of increased intracranial pressure.
- 540 – Obstetric Complications
- Removal of oxytocin
 - Rename protocol: Severe Pre-Eclampsia / Eclampsia
- 555 – Pediatric Anaphylactic Reaction
- Removal of epinephrine infusion.
- 551 – Pediatric Obstructed Airway
- Added language to describe intended right main-stem displacement. Also, removal of needle Cricothyroidotomy.

REGIONAL COUNCIL UPDATE

The Regional Emergency Medical Services Council of New York City met on September 22, 2009. The following is a meeting summary:

- There was a lengthy discussion regarding vaccination of health care providers.

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- NYS mandates employees of hospitals and employees of agencies under contract to hospitals must be vaccinated against both seasonal and H1N1 flu. Volunteers are not mandated, neither is FDNY.
 - The recent court ordered restraint of the NYS DOH mandate is being investigated.
 - FDNY is offering the vaccine to its employees and anticipates at least 50% compliance.
 - The Regional Council has worked with the NYC DOHMH and will be receiving H1N1 vaccine for the volunteer and private sectors. The REMSCO POD Plan will be activated to administer vaccines to members of those sectors who choose to take advantage of this opportunity.
- Program Agency contracts have been changed to multi-year contracts.
- This will cause a delay in payments for a minimum of four weeks.
- An e-Learning system has been installed on the REMSCO website.
- A Burn program is available on-line and completion of the course is worth 2 cme REMAC credits.
 - There are other courses also available on the REMSCO website.
- MSA has been ordered by the Office of Homeland Security to deliver 2000 NIOSH approved escape hoods (APRs).
- The canisters on these NIOSH approved APRs are the same as those on the Millennium masks.
 - The difference is they do not require fit testing.
 - Delivery date is approximately two months.
- The draft volunteer ambulance contract was reviewed over the summer by members of the volunteer sector.
- The contract outlines how vac's can participate more fully in the NYC 911 System.
 - Areas of concern were identified.

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- A Certified Lab Instructor Prescreening and Course was held at the LaGuardia Community College on September 25, 26 & 27, 2009.
- The following Course Sponsor Renewals are recommended for approval:
 - John Jay College (BLS)
 - New York Hospital Queens (BLS & ALS)
- Dr. Nadine Levick reported on the National Academies Transportation Research Board for the forthcoming 2009 Ambulance Transport Safety Summit on Thursday October 29th at the Keck Center, Washington, D.C.
 - The goal of this Summit is to bring diverse fields of technical expertise together to assist EMS systems to have access to objective and optimal technical information that relates to transportation safety issues in EMS.
- The next meeting of the Regional Council Committee will be October 27, 2009.

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

The QA Committee did not meet.

STATE EMS COUNCIL/SEMAC UPDATE

The State EMS Council and SEMAC will meet on December 2 & 3, 2009.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No report.

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Prezant, FDNY discussed plans to provide Tamiflu to NYC residents who call 911 presenting with possible flu symptoms.

Dr. Marshall once again asked that the REMAC Bylaws be revised to include additional seats: 3 non-voting (2 At Large, 1 Public). These proposed changes have aged 2 meetings and will be eligible for vote at the November 17th meeting.

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The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm. The next meeting of the REMAC Committee will be November 17, 2009.