



<h1>NYC REMAC</h1>			
Advisory No.	2015-09		
Title:	Prohibition of Cervical Collar Removal in Patients with Suspected Spinal Injury		
Issue Date:	November 6, 2015		
Effective Date:	Immediate		
Supersedes:	n/a	Page:	1 of 1

The Regional Emergency Medical Advisory Committee (REMAC) of New York City is responsible to develop, approve and implement prehospital treatment and transport protocols for use within the five boroughs of the City of New York. The Regional Emergency Medical Advisory Committee (REMAC) of New York City operates under the auspices of Article Thirty of the New York State Public Health Law.

There is a conflict between the New York State Department of Health, Bureau of EMS Suspected Spinal Injury BLS Guidelines and the New York City REMAC BLS Head and Spine Injury Protocol.

The NYS DOH BLS Suspected Spinal Injury Protocol states that, **“When possible, the highest level of care on scene will determine if spinal motion restriction is to be used or discontinued (collar removed, etc.)”**. This is interpreted as allowing the removal of a cervical collar in the field.

The New York City REMAC BLS Head and Spine Injury Protocol does not allow for the removal of a cervical collar once it has been placed. This is regardless of level of provider.

Be Advised: A cervical collar, once placed, shall remain in place while the patient is under care of EMS providers. Once patient care is transferred to in-hospital staff, it is the responsibility of emergency department staff to determine further care choices.

A list of all revised protocols summarizing changes is attached, along with actual protocols identifying specific changes. New Language is **underlined and bold**. Deleted Language is ~~struck-out~~.

Current and Updated Protocols can be accessed at the Regional EMS Council website: www.nycremsco.org.

Lewis W. Marshall, Jr., MD, JD
Chair, Regional Emergency Medical Advisory
Committee of New York City

Marie C. Diglio, EMT-P
Executive Director Operations, Regional Emergency
Medical Services Council of New York City