
Tri-County EMS



News-line

Winter 2014

The Manager of Operations

“THE DOCTOR IS IN”

As winter approaches and cold temperatures move in, keep in mind the need to keep the paramedic drug boxes, Epi Pens, Duo Dotes and IV solutions from freezing. The pharmacist have indicated the recommended temperature ranges for the storage of these medications is 66-77 degrees Fahrenheit.

State Medical Control Authority (MCA) Consolidation Initiative: At the September MCA Conference the State of Michigan rolled out an initiative to consolidate the current sixty-two MCAs to ten MCAs over a two year period beginning October 2014. There is discussion at the State to initially consolidate into eight MCAs, following the boundaries of the bio-terrorism regions, before completing the consolidation into ten MCAs. The boundaries for the ten MCAs are the same as the Governor's ten prosperity regions. Currently there is no clear direction as to how this will be accomplished. Our office is attending the MCA consolidation meetings and will provide periodic updates as appropriate.

Protocol Updates: The State has completed updates to five current protocols, and developed four new protocols. These protocols will be implemented in 2015, the actual date is yet to be determined. The office is also working on two other protocols, which will be out for review in 2015. They are: Tactical Emergency Medical Service Team, and Optional Alternate Transport of an Apparently Intoxicated Patient. A protocol review meeting will be held, January 21, 2014, 9:00am, at Meridian Township Fire Department, to discuss all of these proposed protocols.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New year!

Michelle E. Harper, Manager of Operations

In recent months we have witnessed an increase in the number of responses to what is known as an Apparent Life Threatening Event (ALTE). ALTE is described as some combination of apnea, skin color change, loss of muscle tone, as well as choking and, or gagging in patients under one year of age. The event is very alarming to observers as they often times believe the infant has died; as a result EMS is often times activated.

In terms of EMS responses to ALTE, the pitfall lies in the fact that upon arrival at the scene, the infant appears normal to the parent and provider alike. With that said, it is essential that EMS providers recognize an ALTE and seek to ensure the patient is transported to the emergency department for further evaluation.

Many times EMS providers will encounter a situation in which the parent believes the patient is now fine and no permanent issue exists. The research and science suggest otherwise, therefore it is imperative that EMS providers educate the parents appropriately and ensure that optimal patient care is provided.

Thank you very much for your attention regarding this concern.

As always, be an advocate for your patient, stay safe out, and have a wonderful holiday season!

Dr. Orr is employed by the Emergency Department at McLaren Greater Lansing and is a partner in 98point6 Emergicenter in the Lansing/East Lansing area. Dr. Orr is Board Certified in Emergency Medicine, and a Fellow of the American College of Emergency Physicians. Best of all, he is a former paramedic.

From the CQI Coordinator

One of the variables that make EMS both unique and challenging is the location in which patient engagement is initiated, as well as the environment in which our assessments and corresponding treatment transpires. Those of us in EMS have grown so accustomed to operating in challenging surroundings that we sometimes fail to realize the impact it may have on the delivery of patient care.

Consequently, it is essential for EMS providers to recognize an environment that forces a significant amount of external stimuli on both themselves and the patient; this external stimulus often times comes from family members, friends, and co-workers of the patient. The recognition of such circumstances should then be followed up with the removal of the patient from the environment as soon as possible.

Getting the patient to a safe and quiet area in a home or within the patient compartment of the ambulance will allow for a much improved environment of care.

Thank you and best wishes for a safe and enjoyable holiday season!

Mark A. Vroman, CQI Coordinator

CQI is not about what we did wrong. CQI is about what we can do better.



2015 Golf Outing

TCEMCA's Annual Golf Outing is scheduled for Wednesday August 19, 2015, Eldorado Golf Course, 9:00am. We are looking for individuals interested in helping the office to plan for this event. Please call our office for more information or to register your team!

Important Upcoming Dates

- December 24 & 25 – Office closed for Christmas
- December 31 & January 1 – Office Closed for New Year's Holiday
- January 14, 2015 – TCEMCA Board Meeting
- January 21, 2015 – Protocol Review Meeting
- February 16, 2015 – Office Closed President's Day
- February 18, 2015 – Agency Directors Meeting

If you have business to conduct at the Tri-County office, it is recommended that you call ahead to insure staff will be available to assist you. The office may be closed for portions of any day due to off-site meetings or staff vacations.

Your TCEMCA Staff

- Dr. Bob Orr, FACEP, Medical Director
- Michelle E. Harper, AEMT, Manager of Operations
- Mark Vroman, AEMT, CQI Coordinator
- Shelly Van Lancker, Administrative Assistant

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TCEMCA Website

Please visit our website at www.tcemca.org. You will find our protocols, frequently needed links to EMS related websites, Continuing Education Opportunities and the Tri-County EMS News-line.