

Westchester Regional Emergency Medical Advisory Committee



Nicholas DeRobertis, MD, FACEP
Chairperson

February 4, 2011

To: All Regional EMS Agency Officers, Medical Directors, and Hospital Emergency Department Directors
From: Dr. Nicholas DeRobertis, REMAC Chair
Re: Regional Quality Improvement Program

The Westchester Regional Emergency Medical Advisory Committee (REMAC) approved a revision of the Regional Quality Improvement Program Manual at its last meeting on January 24, 2011. This culminates a fourteen month review and modification process spearheaded by the REMAC Quality Improvement (QI) Committee and EMS Program Agency (Westchester County Department of Emergency Services). These efforts were necessary to create a direct correlation to the latest QI processes endorsed by the New York State Emergency Medical Services Council, but also to streamline procedures and emphasize regional collaboration and coordination.

In addition to reiterating key elements of the state QI process, the updated manual clarifies regional evaluation areas and establishes a regional meeting forum for discussion of system QI activities. As in the past, EMS agencies are encouraged to collaborate with neighboring hospitals and emergency departments on QI initiatives. Additionally, all ambulance and advanced life support (ALS) first response services will now be required to integrate plans with the regional QI program. This is imperative so that system improvements may be identified and implemented with a standardized approach. Participating EMS agencies will benefit from the support of the REMAC QI Committee at collaborative meetings and workshops as well as by having greater lines of communication regarding important regional QI initiatives and findings.

To begin the transition to improved QI collaboration, some action is needed from EMS agency officers and medical directors. Following a complete review of the updated regional QI manual (attached), EMS agency officers are asked to submit a completed Regional Quality Improvement Program Collaborative Agreement (located on page 7 of the attached manual) to the Regional EMS office along with the latest version of the EMS agency's QI plan. EMS agency QI plans and collaborative agreements should be filed no later than **March 31, 2011**. The REMAC QI Committee will be reviewing EMS agency QI plans upon receipt and providing status reports to REMAC. All future QI related correspondence will be directed to the EMS agency contacts identified in the newly submitted QI plans. Information regarding the REMAC QI Committee meetings, workshops, and evaluation materials will be distributed shortly after the March 31st deadline.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation. Your participation is anticipated. If there are any questions in this regard, please contact the Westchester Regional EMS Office at 914-231-1616.

Respectfully,

Dr. Nicholas DeRobertis, MD, FACEP
Chair, Westchester Regional Emergency Medical Advisory Committee

CC: D. Blum, REMSCO Chair
D. Olmoz, WCDES
Dr. J. Yuknek, REMAC QI Committee Chair