



Westchester Regional EMS Council

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February 16, 2007

To: All Regional EMS Agency Executive Officers
Re: NYS Protocol Update - EMT Administration of Aspirin

Officers

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As you all should be aware, the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) recently rolled out a revision to the statewide Basic Life Support (BLS) protocols affecting both EMTs and Advanced EMTs. This update adds aspirin administration to the algorithm for cardiac related problems consistent with the recommendations of the American Heart Association (AHA). Since this amendment constitutes a modification to the base level of care delivered by EMS, your Service Medical Director is directly impacted by this change in scope of practice of the providers working under his or her medical license, therefore he or she should be involved in your planning and implementation of the required updates.

In recognition of the magnitude of this update, the NYSDOH Bureau of EMS (BEMS) has directed that EMS agencies should work with certified state instructors (CIC, CLI) to facilitate the in-servicing of all personnel (this includes both EMTs and Advanced EMTs). If it is not feasible to use certified instructors, your agency is permitted to have designated Agency Training Officers prepare and deliver the revised curriculum, however this is only allowed with the specific approval of your Service Medical Director.

Also, the NYSDOH BEMS is requiring that all personnel successfully complete a written and practical exam demonstrating their understanding of the material in the update. While a practical evaluation tool was distributed by the state, a written evaluation tool must be developed by each instructor or agency and the format approved by the Service Medical Director before being used. All educational and testing material, including attendance sheets, must be retained by your agency for its records and be made available on demand by the NYSDOH BEMS for inspection.

To help Service Medical Directors and Agency Executive Officers with this process, the Westchester Regional EMS Office has created a frequently asked questions (FAQs) document. I have included it with this letter. **Please be advised that the in-servicing of personnel must be completed and aspirin put into service on all ambulances by July 1, 2007.**

If you have any additional questions regarding this mandated update, please contact the Westchester Regional EMS Office at 914-231-1616.

Respectfully,

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Enclosures (1)

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Cc Dr. N. DeRobertis, Chair, REMAC
NYSDOH BEMS / MARO
File