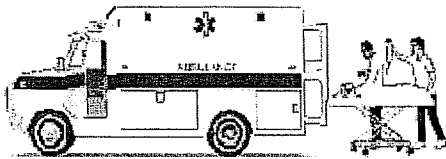
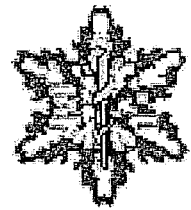


December 2008

12/8/2008

NORTH COUNTRY E M NEWSLETTER



Special points of interest:

- New Regional Policy Statements
- Excellence in EMS
- www.funcmes.com
- Quality Assurance/Quality Improvement
- MOLST (medical orders for life sustaining treatment)
- Tenth Annual Spring Fling
- County EMS Award Winners

Congratulations to Thousand Islands Emergency Rescue Service!



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Edward Wronski, Director of The New York State Emergency Medical Services Bureau and Robert Delagi, Second Vice-Chair of the State Emergency Medical Services Council awarded a plaque to Thousand Islands Emergency Rescue Service honoring them as NYS Agency of the year at the annual awards banquet at the NYS Vital Signs Conference in Buffalo, NY on October 4, 2008.

Visit us at
www.canton.edu/ncems

Updated Regional Policy Statements

2008-05 –BLS Blood Glucometry

This policy statement was revised to reflect the simplified process for obtaining the necessary limited laboratory license from the Wadsworth Center. The limited laboratory registration application can be found on our website along with the regional application for BLS providers to perform blood glucometry testing. **Reminder: all ALS agencies should have this limited laboratory registration even if they choose not to allow BLS providers to do finger sticks.**

2008-06 Automatic ALS Dispatch

This policy statement was updated to assist in getting the appropriate level of care to a patient in a timely manner. If ALS is automatically dispatched, it is unacceptable for a BLS or ILS unit to cancel them prior to the BLS or ILS responding unit assessing the patient.

Excellence in EMS

Take a moment to recognize your colleagues for a job well done! Enclosed you will find an "Excellence in EMS" form that you can complete when you witness a call well done by your colleagues. Take a moment to fill out the form and send it to the North Country EMS Program Agency along with a copy of the PCR. This can be sent with the agencies monthly PCRs, mailed separately, faxed, or sent via email.

REMSCO/REMAC

St. Lawrence County has open seats on the Regional Emergency Medical Services Council. This is a great opportunity to make a difference. If you are interested in being part of the council, please send a letter of interest to the North Country EMS Program Agency at NCEMS, 34 Cornell Drive, WH 027, Canton, NY 13617.

All REMSCO/REMAC meetings are held at the public health facility on Meade Street in Watertown and can also be viewed at www.canton.edu/ncems under the REMSCO/REMAC link. These are open meetings and you are welcome to attend.

2009 Meeting Schedule

January 5th	REMAC @ 4:30	REMSCO @ 7:00
April 6th	REMAC @ 4:30	REMSCO @ 7:00
June 1st	REMAC @ 4:30	REMSCO @ 7:00
September 21st	REMAC @ 4:30	REMSCO @ 7:00
November 2nd	REMAC @ 4:30	REMSCO @ 7:00

Advanced Provider Credentialing Manual

The North Country Regional Emergency Medical Advisory Committee has updated the provider credentialing manual to assist advanced providers in understanding their regional continuing medical education responsibilities. We have included a copy of the updated manual for all ALS agencies and it can also be viewed on our website under the CME link. Please note the addition of # 3 under section 4 that clarifies the need for half of the yearly hours to be completed in the first semester and, at least half of those hours must be ALS. The other change is under instructor credit and clarifies that credit will be given on an hour by hour basis.

Regional CME's

Don't forget that regional CMEs are due on December 31st! You may want to catch up with an evaluator and complete your skills early so you do not get caught up in the holiday rush. Remember that CMEs should be submitted through your agency CME manager.

On-line CME's

www.funcmes.com

New Pod Casts Available

The Monroe-Livingston region has posted Pod Casts on the www.funcmes.com website. This is a great opportunity for free continuing medical education credit. Please follow instructions carefully as any test needs to be faxed to **Their** office and **They** will notify North Country EMS if you successfully complete the Pod Cast and test.

Atropine Auto-Injector Notice of Intent

When your agency completes the atropine auto-injector training there is a Notice of Intent (NOI) that needs to be sent to the Program Agency for REMSCO and a Medical Director Notification form that needs to be forwarded to your service medical director. Please send the NOI to our office and your service medical director.

MOLST Forms

Medical Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment

You may be seeing a new form out there and you can't miss it because it is bright pink! This form includes information on the patients DNR status, but having this form does not automatically mean that the patient does not want to be resuscitated. All health care providers must look at page 1 to determine whether or not the patient wants cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Unlike the NYS Out-of-Hospital DNR, this form has a section to address the patient's preference for other life-saving interventions like intubation, fluids, hospitalization and more. For more information, please go to the following website: www.campassionandsupport.org and click on the EMS training. After completing the training you can print a certificate off the website for 1 hour worth of CME credit. Here are some facts about the "MOLST" Forms. Also, included is NYS DOH Policy Statement 08-07 for your review:

1. MOLST may be used instead of a non-hospital DNR form.
2. The non-hospital DNR form is still a valid form.
3. The MOLST form provides DNR information. It also contains instruction for advanced life support providers on whether or not to intubate the patient when the patient has progressive or impending pulmonary failure without acute cardiopulmonary arrest.
4. The MOLST form is a bright pink, multiple-paged form that is easily identified.
5. The MOLST includes information to be used in other health care settings such as the hospital.

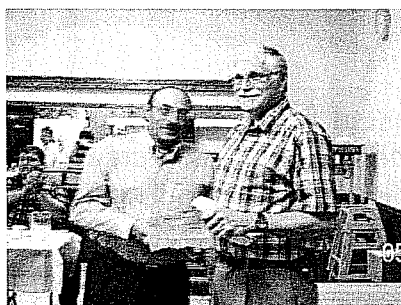
Congratulations to County EMS Award Winners!



Lewis County
Communications Specialist
Michelle Widrick



Lewis County
Educator of Excellence
Mark Tuttle



Lewis County
BLS Provider of the Year
Marvin Swartzentruber



St. Lawrence County
Educator of Excellence
Donald Thompson



St. Lawrence County
BLS Provider of the Year
Paul Montpetit

No Picture Available

Lewis County Physician of the Year– Dr. Sean Harney

Lewis County ALS Provider of the Year– Gary Engle

Lewis County Agency of the Year– Constableville Vol. Fire Company, Inc

Quality Assurance / Quality Improvement

One of the goals of the North Country EMS Program Agency is to become proactive with quality assurance and quality improvement (QA/QI). To achieve this goal the office is reviewing all emergency pre-hospital care reports and providing feedback to agencies and or providers as necessary. Hopefully by sharing our findings with other providers it will exemplify the understanding of different medications and alleviate some common mistakes that have been noted.

Administration of Toradol

Remember when administering Ketorolac/Toradol the dosage should be cut in half for patients who are greater than 65 years of age.

Ketorolac/Toradol

Classification: Nonsteroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drug (NSAID)

How it works: Toradol is in a group of drugs called nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs). Toradol works by reducing hormones that cause inflammation and pain in the body.

Dosage: 30mg IV or 60mg IM **Half the Dose in Pt's > 65**

Indications: Pain management for patients experiencing pain due to musculoskeletal injuries, burns not involving the airway, abdominal pain without suspected obstruction, kidney stones, and renal colic.

Precautions: Elderly (dosage cut in half), Patients with pre-existing cardiac problems or strokes, Asthma, and recent surgery.

Contraindications: Patients with previously documented peptic ulcers and/or GI bleeding, Renal failure patients, head injuries, patients on other NSAIDs such as: ASA, Ibuprofen, Aleve, or Coumadin, and pregnancy. Toradol should be used very cautiously in patients with cardiac history.

Administration of Narcan

Recently it appears that Narcan/Naloxone is being given to patients quite liberally. It seems that providers are following the old "coma cocktail" theory and giving the medication to patients who are unconscious with no other signs or symptoms of opiate overdose such as constricted pupils and respiratory depression. The intention of Narcan is to correct life threatening respiratory arrest or depression due to an opiate overdose, and should be used *only* in these situations.

Narcan/Naloxone

Classification: an opiate antagonist

How it works: Narcan prevents or reverses the effects of opiates including respiratory depression, sedation and hypotension.

Dosage: 2mg slow IV push

Indications: Patients with suspected opiate overdose with respiratory depression.

Precautions: May cause withdrawal symptoms, flash pulmonary edema, seizures, and the half life is less than most opiates and may need to be re-administered. (You would need to contact medical control to do this)

Contraindications: Known allergy to medication.

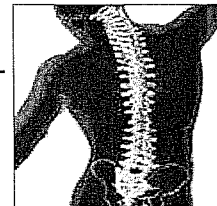
North Country EMS Program Agency

Director— Ann Smith, EMT-CC, CIC

Assistant Director— Todd Blanchard, EMT-P

Secretary— Tammy Liscum

- * Don't forget the deadline for having all EMTs trained on the new suspected spinal injuries protocol is December 31, 2008.



* Spring Fling

Mark your calendars early for the 10th Annual Spring Fling being held April 23-24, 2009 at Bonnie Castle. **Any agencies who would like to display your fire/rescue boats on Saturday during the conference for participants to tour, please contact the North Country EMS Program Agency at 379-3977.**

* Vital Signs 2009

October 15-18, Riverside Convention Center, Rochester, NY.

- * All transport agencies please remember to send your PCR's to the office by the 15th of the following month. We are required to report to the state those agencies that don't send them on time. We are also requesting continuation forms and EKG strips. **Please do not staple them together.**

- * We would like to thank all the providers who have provided us with updated information and please remember to update our agency when you receive a new card, change your agency, address, phone, or e-mail. We ask that you send copies of EMT cards or picture ID via snail mail instead of faxing them as they are frequently illegible when received by fax.

- * **PLEASE SEND A COPY OF YOUR OPERATING CERTIFICATE TO OUR OFFICE WHEN YOU RECEIVE A NEW ONE.**

- * Any North Country EMS agency that would like to recognize a member, a community event you participated in, a new ambulance, or just to recognize the agency as a whole can submit an article and/or picture for the newsletter. Please send it to smitha@canton.edu and we will include it in our next edition.

***The North Country Regional Emergency Medical Services Council,
Advisory Committee, and Program Agency would like to wish
everyone a very safe and happy holiday season!***

