



# North Country EMS Program Agency

“Serving Jefferson, Lewis & St. Lawrence Counties”

Ann M. Smith, EMT-CC, Director  
Jeffrey C. Gregory, EMT-P, Assistant Director  
Tammy M. Liscum, Secretary

TO: All EMS Agencies  
FROM: Ann M. Smith, EMT-CC  
RE: News and Notes  
DATE: May 8, 2007



## HAPPY EMS WEEK!

(May 20-26, 2007)

- ◆ The 2007 pocket size ALS protocol books are in. The Program Agency has distributed them to St. Lawrence County agencies, Jefferson and Lewis County agencies can pick up there books from their respective EMS offices. The primary agency with which our office has you registered will have your protocol book.
- ◆ Enclosed please find the 2007 CLI/CIC class list. It can also be found on our website at [www.canton.edu/ncems](http://www.canton.edu/ncems) under News and Notes.
- ◆ With the implementation of our new ALS protocols, REMAC has reviewed the policy statement book for North Country EMS. Please note the following policy statements that have been rescinded, revised, or created and approved by REMAC and REMSCO. A complete updated REMAC Policy and Procedure book can be found on our website under the Protocols and Policy Statement tab.
  - ◆ The following policy statements have been rescinded as they are now covered under the ALS protocols that went into effect on 4/1/07
    - 2003-03 Stable Tachycardia
    - 2004-01 AEMT-I Use of Magill Forceps
    - 2004-09 AEMT-CC IO Access
    - 2004-11 Use of Amiodarone
  - ◆ The following are revised Policy Statements and are enclosed. Please replace them in your Policy Statement book.
    - 2007-05 (Replaces 2004-05) Reflects the 2007 new protocol implementation date.
    - 2007-06 (Replaces 2004-02) Pulse Oximetry will be required on all ILS and above units; this is a change from being required on Paramedic units only.
    - 2007-07 (Replaces 96-02) Revised to include the addition of a training program and CQI process when a request for additional equipment, skill or drug is presented to REMAC for approval.



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- ◆ New Policy Statements are also enclosed. Please add them to your policy statement book.
  - 2007-01 Hemostatic Gauze
  - 2007-02 Mast Trousers
  - 2007-03 ASA Administration
  - 2007-04 ALS Protocol Book Corrections
  
- ◆ Policy Statement 2007-04 addresses the following errors in the 2007 ALS protocol books
  - **Head Trauma – Pg. 25**  
EMT-I care should end after “Hyperventilate with BVM at 20/min.” The “EMT-CC/EMT-P” heading should be inserted between “Hyperventilation” and Blood Sugar.”
  - **Burns – Pg. 47**  
EMT-I care should NOT include establishing an IV in a pediatric patient
  - **Neonatal Resuscitation – Pg. 56**  
In the box starting with the wording “vigorously suction,” (2<sup>nd</sup> box) REMOVE “If respiratory distress continues.” This sentence should read “Suction the airway using a meconium aspirator and ET tube up to a maximum of 3 attempts.”  
In the box starting with the wording “Establish IV/IO/ET,” (5<sup>th</sup> box) REMOVE “ET.” Per AHA the endotracheal tube is no longer recommended as a medication route. Intubation is an acceptable airway procedure, but should not be your priority in the first 5 minutes of resuscitation.
  
- ◆ At the recent NYS DOH EMS meetings the state has renewed their interest in creating S-T elevation (STEMI) centers for cardiac patients. Please remember when you upgrade your monitors to consider adding 12-lead capability to them. ALS transporting units should contact their local hospital to work on facilitating the transmission of 12-lead ECG’s from the field.
  
- ◆ NYS DOH has created a group to look at the culture of safety within our EMS systems. This includes, but is not limited to, ambulance safety, provider safety and classroom safety. Please take a moment to ensure that your department Policy and Procedures include measures for the safety of your members. Examples of the types of policies they will be looking at are: Seatbelt use, driver training, methods used to approve drivers, use of high visibility garments, and any other policy or training that includes keeping providers safe. Please note that there are NYS policy statements that can assist you in developing these policies if your department does not currently have them. Also, if you need further assistance please feel free to contact our office.
  
- ◆ Please note, this is your time to recognize one of your comrades in EMS who has made a difference based on a pattern of activities that have culminated in a significant improvement of the Emergency Medical Services System in the region or based on a single unusual event that was beyond ordinary duty in 2006. I encourage you to recognize your fellow providers, educators, communication specialists, nurses or physicians and complete an original application form included in this mailing for St. Lawrence and Jefferson County Providers. These applications



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need to be submitted to NYS DOH by REMSCO. Please remember to include thorough documentation on why this person deserves to receive the award and it must be done on an official DOH Form. I have included one form with this newsletter and more can be obtained from the Program Agency or JCEMS. Please see the enclosed brochure for award categories and more information or call the office at 379-3977. All applications must be returned to the NCEMS Program Agency by July 1<sup>st</sup> to be considered. Lewis County providers, please contact Mark Tuttle, Lewis County EMS Coordinator for more information at 376-5303.

- ◆ Reminder: NYS DOH has approved the administration of Aspirin by EMT-B providers. EMT-B providers are required to complete training on Aspirin Administration and it is recommended that the training be completed by a NYS CIC or CLI. Please contact our office if you need assistance. The protocol gives the dose of aspirin to be administered as 160-325mg. Regionally, Dr. Cattelane has approved the dose at 162mg to mirror the ALS dose. Please see the enclosed Policy Statement.
- ◆ If your agency is going to use CPAP or Nitrous, remember to contact our office for the required in-service.
- ◆ As we review PCRs, we've noticed many have taken the time to cross out sections in which they have not filled in or they write in N/A. Please note the following statement from NYS DOH PCR documentation training instruction manual under general instructions
  - “It is important that **firm pressure with a ball point pen** be used. Be as neat, complete and accurate as possible when completing this form. Do *not* write **NA** or draw lines across sections of the form.”
- ◆ Please keep our office informed of changes regarding current officer information and contacts. When updating personnel rosters, please copy our office to include complete names, EMT level with number and expiration dates. If you have not supplied the NCEMS office with a current copy of your EMT card and photo ID please do so. We request that they be mailed, because they are frequently illegible when they are faxed.

The North Country Regional EMS Council, Advisory Committee and Program Agency would like to say THANK-YOU for your commitment to providing quality pre-hospital care to our communities. Each and every one of you provides a special attribute to the system and must be praised for your commitment and hard work. Happy EMS week!

**KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!**