



# 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

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TO: All EMS Agencies  
FROM: Ann M. Smith, EMT-CC  
RE: News and Notes  
DATE: January 22, 2007

## HAPPY NEW YEAR

- ◆ The 2007 ALS protocols were approved by NYS SEMSCO and SEMAC, at their December meeting, contingent on some changes. REMAC has approved the changes and they are in the process of being printed. You will find a copy of the finalized protocols at [www.canton.edu/ncems](http://www.canton.edu/ncems), along with a copy of the revised minimum equipment list.
- ◆ The New Protocols will not go into effect until **April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007**. Please do not place any of the new medications or equipment on your ambulance until that time.
- ◆ The North Country received approval for use of “hemostatic gauze”, for hemorrhage control, for all levels. A REMAC approved policy statement and protocol will be going to REMSCO in March for final approval.
- ◆ AED Upgrades are now available for Medtronics (Lifepak 500) and Zoll AED’s. The upgrades were purchased by the North Country Regional Emergency Medical Services Council and you can call the following locations to have your Medtronic or Zoll AED upgraded:
  - Jefferson County EMS – Contact JCEMS @ 786-3760
  - Lewis County Search and Rescue – Contact Jim Deavers @ 376-7745
  - St. Lawrence County – Contact Jeff Gregory @ 379-3977
- ◆ Protocol update in-services will be conducted throughout Jefferson, Lewis and St. Lawrence counties by Program Agency staff and state CIC’s. This is mandatory for all ALS providers (intermediates included). Dates and times of in-services TBA.
- ◆ Mark your calendars for Spring Fling 2007...March 22-24, 2007 at Bonnie Castle in Alexandria Bay! Enclosed are the 2007 Spring Fling programs and announcements to be posted at your agency. The enclosed registration forms may be reproduced. North Country REMSCO and Catskill Hudson Area Health Education Center have teamed up to offer a Leadership Academy Workshop at a very affordable price. This is a very exciting opportunity for **all providers**, not just current EMS leaders. The conference schedule and registration forms will be posted on our Website, [www.canton.edu/ncems](http://www.canton.edu/ncems), by the end of January.



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- ◆ SUNY Upstate Medical University will be offering an EMS Teaching Day on Saturday, April 21, 2007 with the following topics on the agenda: Cardiac Arrest 2007, EMS Myth Busters, Inhalation Abuse, New Trends in Managing the ABC's, Stroke, Trauma Case Studies. Please refer to their website for conference updates and registration information [www.upstate.edu/emergency](http://www.upstate.edu/emergency), telephone 315-464-4851 or by e-mail [morer@upstate.edu](mailto:morer@upstate.edu)
- ◆ Mark your calendars early, Vital Signs Conference 2007 will be held October 18-21, 2007 at the On-Center in Syracuse.
- ◆ All New York State Certification Written Examinations beginning with the December 2006 exam will reflect the approved 2005 AHA guidelines for ACLS and PALS. The new BLS 2005 AHA guidelines for CPR were reflected in state exams, beginning with exams offered in August 2006.
- ◆ Kinney Drugs recently introduced the Life Vial to the communities it serves in the area. This has been advertised on television and many of you may have received information at your agency. The Life Vial is kept in the refrigerator and contains vital information regarding a person's medications, medical conditions, attending physicians, emergency contacts and more. The kit also includes stickers for the house doors and a magnet for the refrigerator door to alert first responders that there is a Life Vial in the refrigerator. Be alert for these, especially if your patient is unable to communicate with you.
- ◆ Please make sure that you check your IV Catheters, ET Tubes, and suction catheters for expiration dates. One of our common findings while performing ALS inspections is items that are expired.
- ◆ During QA/QI we have noted that lack of documentation has become a problem; please remember that if it is not documented, it wasn't done. I can't even begin to stress how important the documentation part of each call is, but remember that the PCR is part of the patient's medical record. **It should be Neat, Legible and Complete!** The North Country EMS Program Agency offers PCR documentation in-services, please call 379-3977 to arrange one at your agency.
- ◆ There have been a few reported instances of providers asking medical control for orders that are beyond their scope of practice. For example, a BLS or Intermediate provider asking permission to do a Blood Glucose. Please remember there could be serious repercussions from acting above and beyond your scope of practice!
- ◆ Congratulations to Carthage Area Rescue for winning the \$100.00 medical supply giveaway with the timely completion of their EMSC Survey.



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- ◆ Congratulations to Beaver Falls for their successful upgrade to Paramedic Level.
- ◆ Congratulations to Edwards Rescue for their successful upgrade to Critical Care Level.
- ◆ The educational component of the new suspected spinal immobilization protocol has been developed and approved. This information will be distributed to all agencies by NYS DOH for implementation later this year
- ◆ A new NYS DOH QA/QI manual has been approved and will be distributed to agencies in 2007. This is a guidance document for Agencies and Regional level Quality Improvement Activities. Along with the distribution of the manual, a Train the Trainer program will be rolled out with the assistance of Program Agencies throughout the state.
- ◆ Please keep our office informed with current officer information and contacts. When updating personnel rosters, please copy our office to include complete names, EMT level with number and expiration dates.

**Remember, with the cold weather setting in we must keep our patients warm when moving them to the ambulance or into the hospital!**