



Hot Topics



The Genesee County Medical Control Authority's

Newsletter for EMS Providers - Also now available on line at GCMCA.org

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September 2020

Get Your Flu Shot!!

There is no current mandate to get an annual flu shot for EMS providers, but we strongly encourage you to do so. As a health care provider you will be exposed to the flu and will have a higher risk of getting sick than most people.



And, with the current COVID-19 pandemic, and the similarity of symptoms between these two diseases, differentiating the two and the complicating the effects of

both can place you and your patients at even greater risk. Also, like COVID-19, one can be a carrier of the flu and not experience symptoms.

Finally, once there is a vaccine for COVID-19 that is proven to be both safe and effective, we encourage you to get that as well. Plans are currently underway to provide this vaccine to frontline workers, including EMS. More details to come.

In the meantime, stay safe and get vaccinated!

Patients in Handcuffs

Recent changes to the Patient Restraint protocol establishes the expectations for patients who have been restrained by law enforcement and describes what should occur if the officer can or cannot accompany the patient to the hospital.

If the patient is in handcuffs or other devices that EMS crews cannot remove, the officer must accompany the patient to the hospital. If the officer cannot be in the back of the rig for whatever reason, then the patient is to be placed in soft restraints (if necessary) and in a way that will not compromise crew safety.



Remember that this is only for instances when the patient is not in custody or under arrest but being restraint for safety of others or themselves. If in custody the officer has a duty to remain with the patient. Safety of everyone is the number one priority in these situations.

MFR/BLS Naloxone Usage

Last month the GCMCA PSRO completed a thorough review of all recent overdose cases where Naloxone was used by MFR and BLS providers. This valuable intervention was found to be done as indicated in a very high number of cases, and when done, nearly 85% of patients showed improvement from their initial presentation. At this point we all know that this intervention saves lives!

While the review showed some great value in the use of this medication in the pre-hospital setting by our MFR and BLS providers, there were some opportunities for improvement as follows:

- 1) Ventilation of the patient needs to be done **FIRST** before administration of the medication.
- 2) Documentation of vital signs before **AND** after medication administration should be done.
- 3) If a patient refuses transport after medication has been administered online medical control is to be contacted and this noted in the run record.

Overall, this review found great value in the use of the medication and having our MFR and BLS crews having it and using it. Keep up the great work!