



Hot Topics



The Genesee County Medical Control Authority's

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

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Refusals Post-Naloxone Usage

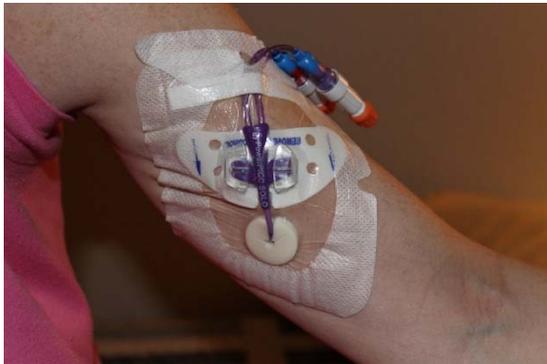
Last year we noted in this newsletter the challenges EMS providers face when a patient has been given a medication which changes their status from altered/unconscious to alert and oriented, and then refuses to be transported. With the rise of opioid overdoses this issue continues to be discussed in these cases and we continue to receive requests for clarification of what EMS providers should do.

First, you must contact online medical control for input on these cases. Second, fully describe to the patient the risks of not going to the hospital and strongly encourage them to go with you. Third, make sure that they truly do meet all of the criteria for competence to sign a refusal. Finally, if the patient is competent and absolutely refuses to be transported, thoroughly document the steps you took before obtaining the refusal. We encourage you to re-read the current Refusal of Care protocol on this and other issues related to signed refusals. Note that the GCMCA Protocol Committee and PSRO have determined that once an overdose patient has been given Naloxone and is alert and oriented times four that they are no longer “under the influence of drugs” under this protocol and have the right to refuse.



PICC Line Access

In 2017 the state approved a revision to our Vascular Access protocol that allows for accessing PICC lines in very specific cases with Priority 1 patients where IV access is not possible. All cases where a PICC line is used must be reported to the GCMCA for PSRO review.



We have had a few cases where this has been done and unfortunately the patient did not meet criteria because the port used was not a PICC line.

We have posted PowerPoint educational slides on this protocol, the use of PICC lines, and what paramedics should be looking for when accessing a preestablished line in a patient. We encourage all medics to review this information and be prepared for this rare but potentially lifesaving intervention. Feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns.

Mystery Picture Winner!!

Congratulations to John Eichhorn who correctly identified this picture as being at Crossroads Village. The Horton-Colwell building was originally located in Fenton (built in 1869). It was torn down and rebuilt at Crossroads in 1978. For his keen eye John received a \$10 Tim Horton's gift card.

