



# *The Monitor*

The monthly electronic newsletter for the Southern Illinois Regional EMS System.

JULY 2019

**COMMAND:** Dr. Haake and the EMS Office staff want to wish 'Merica a very happy 243<sup>rd</sup> birthday! Dr. Haake also wanted to thank all of the EMS System participants that applied for system preceptor. The applications are being reviewed and announcements will be coming soon.

**FINANCE:** The Fiscal Year 2020 IDPH EMS Assistance Grant application period is now open. Details on grant requirements and how to apply can be found on our system's website, [www.sirems.com](http://www.sirems.com).

**LOGISTICS:** For candidates testing for Illinois EMT or Paramedic licensing, remember there's an initial license fee along with the examination fee. We often deal with test candidates that have paid their examination fee, but were unaware of the initial licensing fee. The IDPH fee schedule is available under the IDPH forms tab of [www.sirems.com](http://www.sirems.com).

Don't forget about the iGel supraglottic airway education available on the system's website. The iGel airway can now be used in our EMS System, as well as the King Airway or Combitube. Contact the EMS Office with any questions.

For the EMS Personnel that exchange medications with the hospitals, please write legibly on the drug exchange forms. It is very difficult for pharmacy and EMS Office staff to audit and track medications when we cannot read the name of the patients, name and concentrations of the medications, and names of the medics. Even though we also treat patients, this doesn't mean we have to write like doctors.

**OPERATIONS:** Remember when assessing a patient with a suspected stroke, we should be mindful of an unsteady gait or deficits in balance and vision changes/disturbances. A great way to remember the additional considerations is the acronym BE FAST.

- B- balance
- E- eyes/vision
- F- facial droop
- A- arm drift
- S- speech
- T- time, last known well time

Though we continue to activate from the findings of the FAST scale, please report any changes or deficits in balance and/or vision.

Paramedics: Because of the long standing Valium (diazepam) shortage, we have been using Ativan (lorazepam) for treatment of active seizures. Versed (midazolam) is also a benzodiazepine carried on ALS units that have been trained on drug assisted intubation. Versed can be used for adults with active seizures, but it is not the preferred benzodiazepine because it's effects are much more long lasting than the other available benzos. Under the Valium shortage....If Ativan is unavailable or unsuccessful, contact Medical Control to consider and dose Versed.

Our EMS services's documentation on patient refusals of care is very poor. Refusals of care hold the highest risk of legal issues in comparison to any other types of EMS calls. The documentation should contain, at MINIMUM, the same level of detail as a PCR for a patient that we transport. Below is a portion of the system's refusal policy for reference. Procedure for Refusal:

If a patient wishes to refuse either treatment, examination, or transportation, the following steps will be taken:

The EMT will complete a system approved "Patient Refusal Checklist" that includes the assessment of:

General impression

Level of consciousness

Possibility of head injury

Possibility of patient being under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol

Vital signs

Medical control shall be contacted for orders when:

The condition indicates medical care is needed

The patient is incompetent

And/or refusal of treatment and/or transport could further harm the patient

The patient will be provided with a "Refusal Information Sheet"

The patient refusal checklist and information sheet will be kept on file with the run report at the provider service agency.

**PLANNING:** Don't forget about our EMS Calendar at [www.sirems.com](http://www.sirems.com)

July 4: Independence Day

July 9: SPARC General Membership Meeting, Marion Pavilion

July 13: SIREMS Triage Tag Day

July 18: Regional EMS and Trauma Advisory Committees, HRMC

July 22: IDPH EMS Education Committee videoconference, IDPH Marion

*TIP OF THE MONTH:* Remember the heat and humidity this time of year and what effects it has on our patients. When you respond to a call outdoors, be mindful of what the weather conditions are doing to our patients. Keep our patients out of direct sunlight and remove them from hot outdoor environments as soon as possible.

If you have any questions or information for "The Monitor", please contact me at [Brad.Robinson@sih.net](mailto:Brad.Robinson@sih.net) or [SouthernIllinoisRegionalEMS@gmail.com](mailto:SouthernIllinoisRegionalEMS@gmail.com) (07-05-19).