



The Monitor

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

June 2022

COMMAND: Dr. Haake wanted to thank you all and hopes that everyone had a good EMS Week 2022! Due to budgetary issues, the traditional food deliveries were not able to be done this year. I'm sure all of us in healthcare have been reviewing expenditures in the semi-post COVID and inflationary environments. Dr. Haake and the staff of the SIREMS Office appreciate the lengths you go every day for our patients.

FINANCE: Nothing new on the finance front for this issue.

LOGISTICS: The IDPH emergency rule requiring EMS personnel be fully vaccinated for COVID-19 or tested for COVID-19 on a weekly basis was extended through July. When the county of the EMS agency is listed by the CDC as a high or substantial transmission area, the non-vaccinated must be tested twice weekly. The county check function is right on the front page of the CDC's website, [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(cdc.gov\)](https://www.cdc.gov). Contact the EMS Office with any questions.

The SIREMS medication list has been amended to make Ativan (lorazepam) optional on ALS transport and non-transport units. Lorazepam will remain optional for services that choose to carry it and for all of our ALS services in the event of another nationwide Valium (diazepam) shortage. Remember, if you carry lorazepam, it is only good for 90 days outside the refrigerator.

OPERATIONS: The COVID numbers are spiking in Southern Illinois. Remember the COVID protocol for SIREMS is still in effect. Surgical masks and gloves for all patients, COVID screening questions, and full PPE for suspected/confirmed COVID+ as well as aerosol generating procedures. [Microsoft Word - B-36 NOVEL CORONAVIRUS \(COVID-19\) PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE \(sirems.com\)](https://www.sirems.com)

The SIREMS bradycardia protocol has been updated to reflect the recent AHA change bringing the atropine dose up from 0.5mg back to 1mg. If you have any questions, contact the EMS Office. [Microsoft Word - CC-8 BRADYDYSRHYTHMIAS \(sirems.com\)](https://www.sirems.com)

We feel like a broken record here folks, but documentation on refusals continues to need major improvement. As the EMS Office is focusing more on refusals, Dr. Haake and I may be visiting offenders and discussing action plans and additional measures to correct the problems.

PLANNING: Don't forget about our EMS Calendar at www.sirems.com

June 09: IDPH Trauma Advisory Council
June 13: SIREMS Triage Tag Day
July 04: Independence Day
July 13: SIREMS Triage Tag Day
July 21: Region 5 EMS Advisory Committee

TIP OF THE MONTH: Just months ago, it seemed like we were mostly past the whole COVID thing and everyone seemed to be in better moods. Now, with a resurgence of COVID, a continued shortage of EMS personnel, and the increasing costs of everything, it can be easy to slip into depression. Be mindful of self-care in this environment. Don't be afraid to talk to friends, family, coworkers or even a healthcare provider about issues that may be troubling you. If you are unsure of who to speak to and need help, please reach out to your department manager. The EMS Office staff are here as well. If you feel you need help, PLEASE ask for it.

If you have any questions or information for "The Monitor", please contact me at Brad.Robinson@sih.net or SouthernIllinoisRegionalEMS@gmail.com (06-08-2022).