



# *The Monitor*

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

September 2020

**COMMAND:** Dr. Haake wanted to thank everyone for your continued efforts during these unusual and stressful times. Thank you for taking care of your communities!

**FINANCE:** We have been hearing about some COVID funds being available and used on EMS equipment. If any SIREMS services have experience with this, please feel free to impart your knowledge with the EMS Office and we will share it.

**LOGISTICS:** For EMS candidates completing their classes and seeking testing for EMT or Paramedic, you must create an account on the National Registry website (nremt.org). After completing your National Registry account, you will apply for testing and then notify the EMS Office to complete your testing approval process. Please contact the EMS Office with any questions.

For EMS candidates that have successfully passed their EMT or Paramedic exam and received their digital confirmation or their National Registry Certification, contact the EMS Office. During the pandemic, National Registry is issuing what they call a provisional certification. This shouldn't be confused with the IDPH Provisional Certifications. The National Registry provisional certifications are in place because of the limited offerings and locations of psychomotor exams. IDPH will license a Paramedic candidate without the psychomotor exam during the NR's provisional period. The NR provisional certifications are valid through December of 2021, meaning the Paramedic candidates have that long to complete their psychomotor testing. Please contact the EMS Office with any questions. *(remember NR accepts the psychomotor skills completed in the EMT program but requires Paramedic candidates complete the NR psychomotor testing stations)*

For ambulance services using vendor PCR software, IDPH has changed the URL address for the data being sent by your PCR vendor. If you or your PCR company did not receive the information from IDPH, please contact the EMS Office.

For the few ambulance services using the EMScan Key Data Web software for your PCRs, IDPH has placed a sunset date of June 30, 2021. After that point, the system will no longer function or send NEMSIS data to IDPH. Feel free to contact the EMS Office for additional details.

**OPERATIONS:** When an ambulance responds to a call, the patient must receive a patient assessment from an EMS provider with a license level the same as the ambulance is licensed. For example, when an ALS ambulance staffed with a Paramedic and EMT responds to a call, the Paramedic must assess the patient. In the previous scenario, the patient may only require BLS care. However, the Paramedic must be the provider that assesses and determines this level of care. Many of our regional EMS systems do not allow EMTs to ride in and provide care when a Paramedic is available, specifically to avoid the issue we are addressing here. Also keep in mind, an ALS patient is not defined or categorized by whether or not ALS interventions are initiated. ALS patients are defined by how they present to us and what we find in our assessments. When in doubt, provide ALS care.

When ALS care is initiated, the Paramedic must ride in and continue the ALS care. It is never appropriate for a Paramedic to begin ALS interventions and leave the patient in the back with an EMT. This is a form of abandonment.

Do not sign a patient care report before reading the report in its entirety and agreeing to everything documented. When you sign a run report, you are agreeing and consenting to everything documented in the PCR. The time to disagree and discuss modifications is before all signatures are affixed instead of during a deposition or in front of a jury.

While discussing signing PCRs, never sign a PCR from a call you did not attend. Also, never forge someone else's name to a PCR. Both of these acts are unethical and illegal. Either instance can be considered insurance billing fraud, that can lead to state and federal criminal charges. Also, the EMS System will also act on these violations with system suspensions and possible license revocations.

All license levels, please remember the COVID limitations on aerosol generating procedures. The two most common problems we are continuing to find in QA reviews are the use of high flow oxygen and failing to wear and document the appropriate PPE.

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

September 7: Labor Day

September 13: SIREMS Triage Tag Day

*TIP OF THE MONTH:* The cab of the ambulance does not have a coronavirus deflector shield and the drivers and passenger seats are not six feet apart. Wear your face covering when both driver and passenger seats are occupied in the ambulance cab. It does not instill a great deal of confidence in our community members and patients when they see us cruising through town sitting next to each other in the cab ignoring public health safety measures.

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) (09-13-2020).