



The Monitor

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

May - June 2021

COMMAND: Dr. Haake wanted to remind us to be very conscious of what we say and how we act in front of patients and the public. Since our last newsletter, Dr. Haake took a complaint from a patient in the emergency department that overheard an EMS crew laughing and joking about a bad trauma. We EMS folks have what normal people would consider "unusual" coping mechanisms, but we must be constantly aware of our surroundings and the potential perceptions of the public. Dr. Haake understands what we see in the field and the different ways we cope with those calls. However, we do not want to make a bad situation worse for our patients and their loved ones...be careful.

Dr. Haake also wanted to commend Jess Dawley, Nikki Preston, Dewayne Daniel and any other JCAS crew member that partnered with the Jackson County Sheriff's FOP Lodge to buy and install a window unit air conditioner for a family in need. Another excellent example of who we are as EMS and why we do this job! Thank you to all that participated for being an example for us and showing the public the best of us!

FINANCE: Nothing new on the financial front.

LOGISTICS: The IDPH end date for Provisional EMS Personnel is June 30, 2021. For those individuals that are functioning under provisional status, that provisional level activity can only be performed until the end of the month. The classes and testing capabilities for all levels have been fully restored. If there are any questions on provisional personnel becoming fully licensed, please contact the EMS Office.

Another IDPH program that ends on June 30th is EMScan Key Data Web, the free online patient care report system. Any ambulance service that has not fully transitioned to an electronic ePCR vendor, your time is very quickly running out. If there are any questions from ambulance service administrators or staff, please contact the EMS Office.

A recently released IDPH memo stated the moratorium on requiring the National Registry psychomotor testing for Illinois Paramedic licensing will expire on June 30, 2021. This moratorium was due to COVID and applied to Paramedic testing candidates that graduated from accredited Paramedic programs. This requirement to take the NR psychomotor testing does NOT apply to students that have graduated from John A. Logan College who are currently in their testing cycles. If there are any questions, please contact the EMS Office.

OPERATIONS: Last week, Dr. Haake made updates to the SIREMS COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Protocol. Due to increased vaccinations and decreasing positivity rates, Dr. Haake has cautiously reinstated the use of aerosolizing procedures.

Here are some bullet points to briefly describe the changes to the COVID protocol:

- Screening patients will continue
- Full PPE will be worn if the patient screens positive
 - Under quarantine or isolation for positive test or awaiting results
 - Shows signs and symptoms of COVID-19
 - Has been in close contact with a COVID-19 positive patient
- Negative screening will require minimum PPE of surgical mask and gloves
- All previously restricted aerosolizing procedures can be performed with the use of full PPE, including gown, gloves, eye protection, and N95 or higher respiratory protection
- Protocol: [Microsoft Word - B-36 NOVEL CORONAVIRUS \(COVID-19\) PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE \(sirems.com\)](#)

We are seeing more trauma patients that are arriving to the emergency department clothed, sometimes fully clothed. With rare exceptions, the trauma patient cannot be adequately assessed while wearing clothing. Please be diligent in your assessment practices, especially with those trauma patients. They are the ones most likely to surprise us with a hidden injury/condition.

Please remember to properly document on your refusal cases. Though refusals seem bothersome and unimportant, they are the number one legal liability issue for EMS personnel, EMS agencies, and EMS Medical Directors. Perform an assessment on every refusal case. If the patient refuses to have their vital signs taken or refuses any other assessment activities, make sure to document those details in the PCR narrative. Perform an assessment and try to convince your patient to seek medical care...avoid those urges to quickly obtain a signature and head back to the base. If you have any questions on refusals, please contact the EMS Office.

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

June 20: Father's Day

July 04: Independence Day

July 13: SIREMS Triage Tag Day

July 15: Regional EMS and Trauma Advisory Committees

TIP OF THE MONTH: For those who have not already learned this the hard way, wear your two-way radio on your left side. With the radio carried on the left side, the transmit button will face the front when you are sitting in the cab or patient compartment. This greatly limits the possibility of unknowingly transmitting (having a hot mic) while the radio is on your belt. This can be very embarrassing or even create a HIPAA or department policy violation. Wearing that radio on your left side and keeping that PTT (push to talk or transmit) button facing forward will greatly reduce the chances of a potentially bad experience.

If you have any questions or information for "The Monitor", please contact me at Brad.Robinson@sih.net or SouthernIllinoisRegionalEMS@gmail.com (06-15-2021).