



The Monitor

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

May 2023

COMMAND: Dr. Haake wants to wish everyone a Happy EMS Week 2023, and thank all of you for the incredible work done in EMS throughout our EMS System. SIH hospitals are hosting picnics for Hospital Week and EMS Week. EMS Personnel are invited to the picnic events at the dates and times listed below.

May 9, 2023: Herrin Hospital (1030-1400 and 1800-2100)

May 9, 2023: St. Joseph's (1030-1300 and 2100-2200)

May 10, 2023: MHC (1030-1400 and 1700-1830 and 2300-0030)

May 12, 2023: Harrisburg Medical Center (1000-1400)

Thanks for all that you do during EMS Week and every other week of the year!!

FINANCE: Consider taking a look at the Savvik buying group. This is a nationwide buying group that has negotiated pricing with dozens of vendors for over 15,000 participating agencies. They have multiple negotiated contracts throughout the country and members can associate with them as members, replacing the sealed bid process. You can find out more at www.savvik.com.

LOGISTICS: For EMR/BLS agencies: The pharmacies traditionally called for epinephrine auto injector prescriptions for EMR agencies have stopped the practice of dispensing any medication that will not be used by the individual picking up the medication. Because of this, the EMS Office has sought other options on assisting agencies in finding and buying epinephrine auto injectors below retail price. We have found one pharmacy that is the least expensive option, even beating the at-cost price of our hospital's pharmacies. Family Drug in Carterville has agreed to sell directly to SIREMS agencies at their cost, which is less than \$290 for a box of two auto injectors. If any agency representative has questions about ordering, please contact the EMS Office.

The SIREMS medication lists Ativan (lorazepam) as 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. However, we strongly recommend carrying Ativan on a regular basis for a number of reasons, including being preferred over Valium for anxiety issues. Remember, if you carry lorazepam, it is only good for 90 days outside the refrigerator.

The State of Illinois passed a law last year requiring all EMS personnel to obtain one hour of Alzheimer's training as a condition of renewing their EMS license. This law went into effect on January 1, 2023. The Alzheimer's Association's website has a one hour online education module designed for pre-hospital personnel. The EMS Office recommends completing the module soon....long before your renewal date. We have created an additional area on every department roster to track the state required training. When you complete the class, please fax or email the certificate to the EMS Office. Follow the link for more information. [IDPH Mandated Alzheimer's Training - SIREMS](#)

IDPH has made changes to the Illinois POLST form. The EMS Office will be emailing the associated training module out to the administrators and training officers of each transport and non-transport agency in SIREMS. We are also working on creating a POLST training video and placing it on the system website.

There were a number of changes adopted to the IDPH EMS Administrative Rules at the beginning of the year. EMS Systems have a deadline of August 1, 2023 to update system plans. Expect numerous updates and some training associated with the new rules through the remainder of this year.

There continue to be transport agencies that are not submitting their weekly refusal reports. As of now, only Jackson County Ambulance and Carterville Fire Dept are fully compliant with Dr. Haake's mandate. The EMS Office will be reporting findings to Dr. Haake soon. We strongly recommend the non-complaint agencies begin submitting their weekly refusal reports.

OPERATIONS: Because of the decline in COVID related disease and transmission, Dr. Haake has downgraded the system from the SIREMS COVID Protocol. Surgical masks are not mandatory on all EMS responses. Also, full PPE is not mandated on airway and aerosol generating procedures. In lieu of full PPE, utilize surgical masks and eye protection when performing airway procedures. More will be sent to EMS administrators in the coming week, but feel free to contact the EMS Office with any questions.

Remember that EMR level personnel CANNOT cease resuscitative efforts during a cardiac arrest. Only Paramedic level personnel can stop resuscitative efforts after they have begun, and that decision is with Medical Control consultation. Please contact the EMS Office with any questions.

IDPH is considering creating EMSC Pediatric designations for pre-hospital agencies. The details are in early stages, within the committee reviewing the state pediatric protocol updates. Now is a good time to brush up on pediatric capabilities, pediatric equipment, and pediatric training for yourself and your department. Who wants to be behind when the mandates for pediatric designation are released?

ALS agencies exchanging medications at SIH facilities need to fully complete the medication exchange log forms. New laws require the lot number, expiration date, and NDC number to be recorded. Paramedics, please complete this before leaving the medication room. Please contact the EMS Office with any questions.

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

May 9-12: SIH Hospital Picnics

May 10: IDPH Recruitment and Retention Committee, 1100

May 11: IDPH EMS Advisory Council, 1000

May 13: SIREMS Triage Tag Day

May 17: IDPH Site Visit of SIREMS

May 21-26: EMS Week

May 29: Memorial Day

TIP OF THE MONTH: Remember that decisional capacity is a higher bar than simply conscious, alert, and oriented to person, place, and time. Ask questions besides name, date of birth, etc. Ask questions where the answers are not ingrained in the patient's memory and requires a bit of thought. I like to ask how many quarters does it take to make \$1.75? It's not a brain buster (for most) but requires some additional portions of the brain to be activated above "what's your name?"

If you have any questions or information for "The Monitor", please contact me at Brad.Robinson@sih.net or SouthernIllinoisRegionalEMS@gmail.com (05-06-2023).