



The Monitor

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

December 2016

COMMAND: Dr. Haake and all of us at the EMS Office wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! We are nearing the beginning of 2017 and many exciting improvements are on the horizon for EMS. Stay safe and warm out there!

FINANCE: The IDPH EMS Assistance Grants are in review and are due from the regional review committees in January 2017. There were only two applicants from Region 5, so their chances seem pretty good.

LOGISTICS: For those ambulance services using the EMScan Key Data Web patient care report system from IDPH, we are hearing about problems from the update last month. I have heard issues from mandatory fields that do not apply to the call, fonts too small to read, screens that do not have a scroll bar, and areas of pages that cannot be accessed. Please document any problems or issues with the EMScan program and forward those to the EMS Office.

EMS license renewals will become more detailed after January 1, 2017. Because of mandates from IDPH, Basic, Intermediate, and Paramedic renewals will be required to obtain minimum amounts of hours in specific topics. We strongly recommend making an appointment with the EMS Office very early in your renewal process to make sure your hours are compliant and that you will have some time to get additional hours, if needed.

Just a friendly reminder about the forms on www.sirems.com, the system's website. On the left hand side, there is a Documents tab. The Documents tab has IDPH Forms and SIREMS Forms. Take a look when you get a chance.

Don't forget about the EMS Office dropbox located on the south side of the EMS Office building at Southern Illinois Airport. The dropbox is a secure place to leave documents. It also has an access point at the top of the box where we can leave items for you to pick up after hours.

The new 2017 ACLS and PALS schedules will be posted on www.sirems.com later this week. To register for any of those classes, send an email to Emily York (Emily.York@sih.net).

OPERATIONS: For Intermediates and Paramedics: please remember the requirements for acquiring a 12 lead ECG. In our system, 12 lead ECGs are required for any patient over the age of 18 with a non-traumatic complaint above the waist. This is to help prevent missing a STEMI due to a non-traditional complaint like weakness, back pain, toothache, non-traumatic shoulder pain, indigestion, etc.

SIREMS has received approval of our protocol and education plan for Epinephrine 1:1000 administration for EMT-Basics. After successful completion of the education module, EMT-B level personnel will now be able to draw epinephrine from a vial and administer with a needle and syringe. Services can still opt to use the epinephrine auto-injectors, if they wish. The epinephrine from a vial with needle and syringe will cost significantly less than purchasing auto-injectors though. Ambulance services with expiring Epi-Pens will be the first to receive the training. Check with your ambulance service's administration and the EMS Office for more details.

If you notice a tear or rip of the upholstery in the patient compartment of your ambulance, please report it to your supervisor. IDPH is cracking down hard on rips, tears, or cracked upholstery in the patient compartments of ambulances.

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

Dec 13: SIREMS Triage Tag Day

Dec 25: Christmas

January 1: New Year's Day

TIP OF THE MONTH: Since it's getting colder, be suspicious of carbon monoxide poisonings. Watch for patients in non-ventilated rooms or buildings that present with headache, weakness, vertigo, nausea and/or vomiting, shortness of breath, confusion, blurred vision, and possibly loss of consciousness. With the beginning of flu season upon us and many of the symptoms being similar, don't discount the possibility of carbon monoxide exposure.

If you have any questions or information for "The Monitor", please contact me at Brad.Robinson@sih.net or SouthernIllinoisRegionalEMS@gmail.com (12-07-16).