



Tales of the East

The Official Newsletter of the Midstate EMS Region
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EMS Week & Annual Banquet

The national observance of EMS Week is May 14-19, 2006. Please let us know of any plans your agency may have for this week.

The Annual Midstate EMS Banquet will be held May 19, 2006 at the Twin Ponds Golf and Country Club in New York Mills. Tickets for the banquet are \$12.00. The tickets are available at the EMS office in Utica. Last year we were forced to turn providers away. Get your tickets early! Tickets will NOT be

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Who's who and what's what at 2521 Sunset Ave.

Providers are encouraged to contact the EMS Office for information and answers to their questions about EMS happenings. It may be confusing who to contact at the office. Hopefully this will help clear things up.

At 2521 Sunset Avenue there are actually three different entities working under one roof.

- I. Midstate REMSCO. This is the group of thirty members from Madison, Oneida & Herkimer counties (10 each) that make up the Article Council

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Midstate EMS

Faxton -St. Luke's Healthcare
2521 Sunset Ave
Utica, NY 13502

Register soon for the
2006 Paramedic class
Call Linda for details

What's in the Works

Faxton-St .Luke's Healthcare EMS – Rollout for Instructors - David Ronan

As you may all be aware, the American Heart Association (AHA) has released the 2005 Guideline changes. These changes affect all disciplines of AHA material (BLS, ACLS, PALS).

The most significant changes in these guidelines were made to simplify CPR instruction and increase the number of chest compressions delivered per minute and reduce interruption in chest compressions during CPR. The following are some of those changes:

- Recommendation of a single (universal) compression to ventilation ratio or 30:2 for single rescuers of victims of all ages.
- Increased emphasis on the importance of chest compressions: rescuers will be taught to "push hard, push fast" (at a rate of 100 compressions per minute)
- Emergency Medical Services (EMS) may consider providing 5 cycles (about 2 minutes) of CPR before defibrillation of a unwitnessed arrest.
- Recommendation of only 1 shock followed immediately by CPR (beginning with chest compressions) instead of 3 stacked shock for treatment of V-Fib or pulseless V-tach.

These are just a few of the changes.

As of June 1, 2006, all instructors must be updated on these CPR changes.

Faxton-St. Luke's Healthcare EMS Education along with St. Elizabeth Medical Center and Faxton-St. Luke's Healthcare are providing these updates on a weekly basis. We strongly encourage all CPR instructors to take this update, failure to do so will void your CPR instructor card.

You can find the update schedule on the midstateems.org front page.

WEBSITE

Several new areas have been added to the web site: www.midstateems.org. Our calendar now includes dates of Regional meetings, training opportunities and special EMS events. A discussion forum has been added for web discussions regarding EMS issues. On-line registration for all classes and easier access to directly email issues to the EMS staff. If your agency has an up-coming training event that is open to all let us know. Another addition to the midstateems.org website is the "Best Practices"

CQI Corner

Agency participation in CQI is a requirement for all Ambulance, ALS Rescues and EMT-AED Agencies. The Midstate REMAC has determined 50% attendance at meetings and submission of QA indicators is the MINIMUM requirement. Vinny Faraone, Clinical Coordinator plans to include "case studies" to County QA meetings.

Oneida County Meeting June 28, TBA
Madison County Meeting June 21, SOMAC
Herkimer County Meeting June 15, Herkimer 911

PROTOCOL REVISION UP-DATE

The REMAC Protocol Committee has submitted the proposed up-dated Regional ALS Protocols to the State DOH for review and approval. In addition each Midstate ALS Agency has received a draft copy of the protocol for comment. Dr. DeTraglia expects the SEMAC to review and approve our Protocols at the May 24 meeting. Pending approval the Protocols will be sent to the printer and the Regional Protocols will be rolled out to all ALS Providers for implementation in Oct 2006.

MIDSTATE EMS IMPORTANT DATES

Midstate EMS Banquet
May 19 Twin Ponds Golf Country Club

St. Elizabeth Trauma Service TRAUMA DAY
June 2 Radisson Hotel, Utica

Midstate EMS Education Days
Friday, October 6 (Leadership training)
Saturday, October 7

What about CQI?

Ever wonder what CQI is all about? Ever received a CQI letter? Ever had to be your agency's representative to the County CQI meeting? Ever participate in your agency's in house CQI? As the Clinical Coordinator for Midstate EMS one of my responsibilities is CQI.

So, just what is this thing called CQI, how does it work, who are the players, and why do we spend the time? Continued Quality Improvement is mandated in Public Health Law Article 30 section 2006. Is this law the only reason for Midstate to have CQI? Do the Program Agency Staff, REMAC Physicians, Medical Directors, Providers, and Administrators have nothing else to do? Most assuredly not!!!! So why do CQI?

Because it allows us to provide better care to our patients.

Remember what this EMS stuff is all about, patient care. So how does it work? The NYS DOH Bureau of EMS has certain indicators we need to evaluate every month (cardiac arrest) aside from that your local REMAC develops indicators for us to look at. These local indicators are based on a trend we see or possibly a new protocol we are looking at (your input as providers is always welcome). We use this data to change the way we teach and allow EMT's to provide care.

What CQI is **NOT** is a Witch hunt. The last thing the REMAC and the NYSDOH wants is to loose providers. We just want our providers to be the best they can be. That is how the word **Improvement** fits into the picture.

So the next time you are asked to be involved in CQI, jump at the opportunity. If you receive a letter from me asking for details of a call do not look at it as a bad thing. Use this opportunity to prove to your Chief, Medical Director, NYSDOH and the REMAC why your actions were in the best interest of your patient. If you can't then we will be there to assist you in the process of changing that.

More About The Web Site

The Midstate website is a valuable tool for our providers. It is the perfect place to see what is going on, check the calendar or voice your opinion about a lot of different topics.

You can even sell that green light you no longer need.

But we caution you, do not believe everything you read. Check out all the facts before coming to any conclusions. Some things need to be turned over to the Clinical Coordinator to investigate. For example, there has been a lot said about 941's. Do you know there is a 941 committee that meets just to keep the process running smoothly? Any issues you have with Law Enforcement or a Hospital should be referred through the proper channels to be corrected. Keep those Posts coming.

Who's Who continued from pg.1

- The Midstate REMSCO operates under Public Health Law article 30. They are charged with the oversight of EMS in the three counties. The REMAC is made up of the Area Physicians responsible for medical control and is a subcommittee of the REMSCO.
 - Stanley Lonchek is REMSCO Chair
 - John DeTraglia, MD is REMAC Chair
- II. The Faxton-St. Luke's Program Agency is subcontracted by the Midstate REMSCO and DOH to perform many contracted "deliverables" that include staff to the REMSCO and REMAC. Also the day-to-day operations of the Region.
 - Program Agency Director Dan Broedel
 - Clinical Coordinator Vinny Faraone
 - Administrative Assistant Chris Conigliaro.
- III. Faxton-St. Luke's Healthcare EMS Course Sponsorship provides EMS Education.
 - Course Sponsor Administrator Eric Loucks
 - Administrative Assistant Linda Trachtenberg
 - Education Clinical / Field and Pilot Program Coordinator Mark Wilson
 - American Heart Association Coordinator David Ronan.

If your question relates to EMT's, EMS Agencies, PCR's, Regional CME's or REMSCO and REMAC issues are best answered by Program Agency staff and Education questions the EMS Education staff.

EMS Week and Annual Banquet

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reserved or held for any reason.

Applications and criteria for the awards are available on the midstateems.org website and at the EMS office. The deadline for award nominations is May 1 2006. For more information or to purchase tickets contact Chris at 738-8351.

Soon the Post Office will no longer deliver any mail addressed to 1750 Genesee Street. **PLEASE** change your records to our new address **2521 Sunset Ave Utica NY 13502**

The annual Boilermaker Road Race will take place on Sunday, July 9. As in the past medical coverage will be coordinated by the Faxton-St. Luke's EMS Program. Interested providers at any level are welcome. Contact Joan at 735-9451 to volunteer for this great event.

KEEPING IN GOOD STANDING

The Midstate REMAC requires ALL "Good Standing" ALS providers to have current EMT and Healthcare Provider CPR cards on file with the Program Agency.

We do not require other cards to be on file. ALS providers may use ACLS, PALS & PHTLS original or refresher course for CME hours. If you plan on applying these hours to your CME's, copy the cards front and back and send to Chris with your intentions. As a courtesy provided to Midstate ALS providers we will keep these on file for you. If you need to acquire a copy, feel confident it will be on file.

PLEASE DO NOT FORGET TO SIGN ALL YOUR CERTIFICATION COURSE CARDS ON THE BACK (Without your John Hancock, it is not a valid card)

Ok, since I am on the topic of certification cards I will take the opportunity to clear any misconceptions when ALS providers refresh CPR through the Faxton-St. Luke's HC-EMS Education Dept. The Faxton-St. Luke's HC-EMS Education Dept. never shares this information for obvious reasons. Therefore, if you have refreshed CPR through our Education Dept. please do not think we (Program Agency) are privy to this information (ex. automatically receiving the copies of ALS provider's CPR cards or rosters). It is up to the ALS provider to submit a copy of the new card front and back to the Program Agency.

PCR's

Documentation has been good. As you may or may not know, every one of the approximately 4000 PCR's generated in the Midstate Region monthly must be checked by our very own Chris. These are then sent to the NYSDOH for data entry. Please give her a hand and insure all boxes are filled in properly and if social security numbers are not available fill all boxes in with zeros. There should be no more version 4 PCR's out there and BLSFR's should use the BLS PCR's. Any questions Chris will be glad to help. Keep up the good work.

If you remember the paragraph with small print on the Protocol Test answer sheet where each Advanced Life Support Provider signs agreeing to the terms as follows:

"The practice of pre-hospital Advanced Life Support is a privilege granted to me by the Midstate Regional Emergency Medical Advisory Committee and the Regional Medical Director through Midstate Regional Policies, Procedures, Protocols, and the Faxton-St. Luke's Healthcare Program Agency Medical Control System. To maintain that privilege, I agree to comply and follow the continuing medical education / skill maintenance requirement, and all other requirements set forth by the REMAC to remain in Good Standing while practicing with the Midstate EMS system"

**By Signing below I, _____ John Doe _____
(Print)**

- 1) Acknowledge that I have received a current copy of the Midstate Regional EMS Program Protocols.**
- 2) Agree to abide by the policies, procedures and protocols of the Midstate EMS system and the REMAC of the Midstate REMSCO.**

**_____ You must sign here _____ Date: ____/____/____
(Signature)**

The point I am trying to make here is simply this: It is not the responsibility of your agency to get the required information into our office. It is **YOU** the ALS provider. If your Agency does this now for you,, consider yourself very lucky. If anyone has questions please feel free to contact Chris at the Program Agency. Thank you.

