



McLean County Area EMS System

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MEMORANDUM

TO: McLean County Area EMS Providers

FROM: Jeannie Mekley
EMS Quality Assurance Coordinator

DATE: November 24th , 2008

SUBJECT: Quality Issues

I have received multiple "Improvement Opportunity Report" forms (I.O.R's) on various quality issues.

In regards to responding to an obvious DOA, where the coroner has been notified, the McLean County Coroner has requested we educate our providers in the importance of crime scene or potential crime scene preservation. The recent I.O.R is specifically in regards to covering the body. The McLean County Coroner does **not** want EMS providers to cover a body with a sheet or blanket, rather create a barrier around the patient if there's a problem with onlookers. Covering a body can tamper with possible evidence. Look for a future continuing education course through our EMS system about crime scene preservation.

I have received numerous I.O.R's from receiving hospitals requesting EMS to attempt to obtain patients' name. I realize this can be difficult at times, especially with a critical patient. However, if there are several providers at scene, and there won't be a delay in patient care, please try to assign someone to gather basic patient information to relay to the receiving facility upon arrival. Basic information meaning, minimally, the patients name.

Recently at one of our local hospitals an Environment Care tour was done and it was discovered that EMS providers are wearing their contaminated gloves outside of the patient's room. I was advised this isn't just an EMS issue, that the hospitals are trying to improve on this also. The Joint Commission is cracking down on these types of issues and it is an infection control issue when contaminated gloves are worn outside the patient's room. Obviously you will have your gloves on when delivering the patient to the ED, however, once you are done handling the patient, please be sure to discard your gloves in the patients room and utilize hand sanitizer prior to leaving the room.

There has been some confusion on when to utilize the Res-Q-Pod. The Res-Q-Pod is to be utilized on CARDIAC ARREST ONLY ages 12 and older. Please review your MCAEMS Procedure manual.

We have been getting feedback from receiving hospitals in regards to EMS not filling out F.A.S.T stroke screen forms. Please remember it is imperative that those forms are completed and left with the receiving facility. It is an important component of the AHA Stroke program.

I know I listed several issues in this memo, but please realize they are all important issues that need to be recognized and acted upon immediately in order to ensure good quality patient care. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at the EMS office.

Sincerely,
Jeannie Mekley, CC-P, NREMT-P
Quality Assurance Coordinator