



Monroe Livingston Region Program Agency


Division of Prehospital Medicine, University of Rochester

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To: All Providers and Agencies

From: Jeremy T. Cushman, MD, MS, EMT-P 
Regional Medical Director

Date: March 19, 2014

Re: Advisory 14-03: Activated Charcoal

At their March 17, 2014 meeting, the Monroe Livingston REMAC voted to remove Activated Charcoal from the regional EMS formulary. Effective immediately, all agencies are to remove activated charcoal from EMS units and properly dispose of it.

Although activated charcoal remains an important tool in the management of acute poisoning, particularly in pediatrics, the decision to administer activated charcoal is increasingly complex and related to a number of factors. It is felt that the risks of prehospital administration of charcoal far exceed the potential benefits. This decision is in part due to sentinel events that have been reported to the Monroe Livingston Regional QA Committee, and represent the important process of sentinel event reporting by individuals, EMS agencies, and Emergency Departments has on improving the care of our patients.

With any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our office.