



Date: November 21, 2006

Advisory 06-01

To: All Monroe-Livingston Agency Medical Directors
All Monroe-Livingston Agencies

Re: Role of the Agency Medical Director

From: Manish N. Shah, MD

Recently there have been some questions directed to the Office of Prehospital Care regarding agency medical direction. It was felt that a short reminder of the expectations of both the agency and the agency medical director might help answer some of these questions.

1. Who needs a medical director?

A medical director is required for any ambulance or first responder agency that has an AED, provides any level of advanced life support or is authorized to use Epinephrine Auto Injectors (Epi-pen).

2. Who can be an agency medical director?

Any physician licensed by NYS and approved by the local REMAC with whom an agency has a professional relationship can be a medical director. It is strongly encouraged that medical directors be active emergency physicians due to their familiarity with emergency medical care and their training in EMS.

3. What are the responsibilities of the agency medical director?

- They must assure that EMS personnel are oriented to local and state protocols.
- They interact with REMAC in developing local protocols.
- They should be active in development, review and participation in the regional QA/QI program and involved in any disciplinary actions.
- They are expected to review 100% of all controlled substance uses if an agency uses controlled substances.
- They should participate in the agency's Continuing Education Programs and re-certification process.
- They work with the agency's providers on questions regarding patient care.
- If the agency is a PAD agency, they are to be notified of every PAD use and must review each use, reporting any concerns to the agency and the provider.
- If the agency is authorized to use Epi-pens, they are to be notified of every Epi-pen use and must review each use, reporting any concerns to the agency and the provider

4. What about immunity for the physician?

According to NYS "any physician who voluntarily and without expectation of monetary compensation provides indirect medical control, shall not be liable for damages for injuries or death alleged to have been sustained by any person as a result of such medical direction unless it is established that such injuries or death were caused by gross negligence on the part of such physician."