



To: All Monroe-Livingston Agencies

Advisory 08-04

From: Terry Fairbanks, MD, Chair REMAC

Date: June 25, 2008

Re: Spinal Immobilization Protocol

As many of you are aware, NYS has introduced a new BLS protocol that allows for selective spinal immobilization, meaning that, once trained, providers can choose not to immobilize low risk patients that meet certain criteria. Since these clearance criteria have never been shown to be reliable in the extremes of age, the state SEMAC debated whether to include age restrictions, and in the end they decided to include cautions in the training. However, MLREMS REMAC members overwhelmingly felt that age limitations should be included in the regional protocol.

We are currently drafting a protocol that will be out shortly for a 30 day comment period that will likely limit the ages for this protocol to be between 8 to 65 years of age. Meaning, patients outside this age range should be backboarded as they would have prior to this new protocol. The final age limitations have not yet been set.

OPC will be sponsoring 30-40CMEs to help all agencies get their mandatory training done prior to the rollout of this protocol. Agencies have until Dec 31, 2008 to have their members trained. If you attend a training that is not OPC sponsored prior to the new local restriction, please be aware that this change is in the pipeline.

As a reminder, this protocol may not be followed in the MLREMS region until training for the entire agency (including the proper age limitations) has been completed.

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