



## Advisory 15-13: Spinal Motion Restriction

**To: All Providers and Agencies**

**Date: September 28, 2015**

As required by the New York State Department of Health, **all EMS providers should have completed, or plan to complete by October 30<sup>th</sup>, the 2015 BLS Protocol Update** inclusive of skills verification that addresses a statewide Hemorrhage Control Protocol and Suspected Spinal Injury Protocol. A Frequently Asked Questions document from the DOH is attached for those that have not yet completed the training.

The MLREMS protocols have been updated to reflect the change in state protocol and a new Suspected Spinal Injury Protocol is attached. Further, all area Emergency Departments have been informed of this significant change in the management of injured patients. Please recognize that during this period of transition it will be imperative that we communicate to receiving facilities the need to maintain spinal motion restriction during transfer of care.

MLREMS providers of all certification levels may begin to use the new Suspected Spinal Injury protocol effective October 1, 2015 if they have completed the DOH training to include skills verification.

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

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

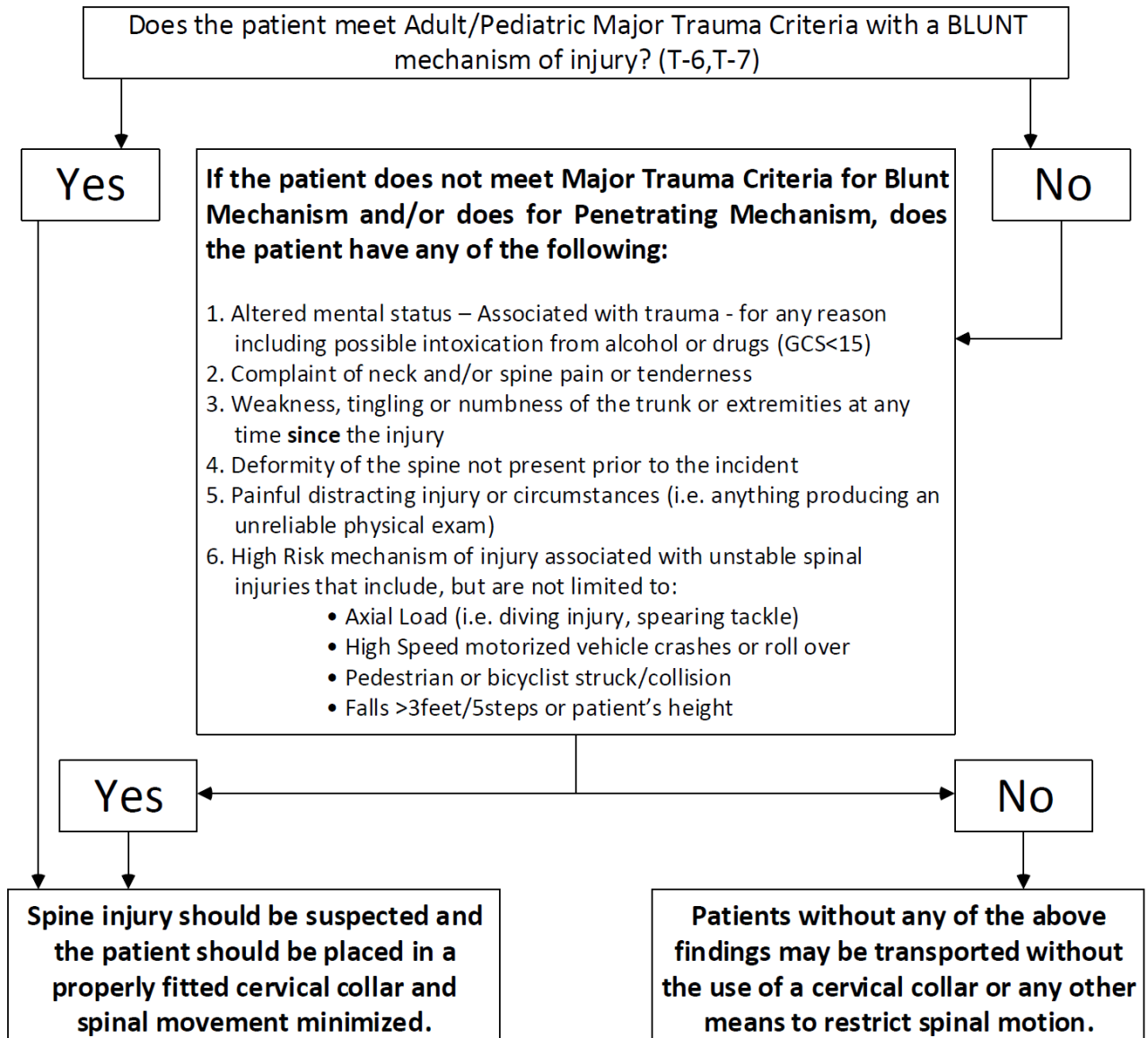
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## 2.33 SUSPECTED SPINAL INJURIES



### Notes:

- Spinal movement can be minimized by application of a properly fitting rigid cervical collar and securing the patient to the EMS stretcher.
- When spinal motion restriction has been initiated and a higher level of care arrives, patients should be reassessed for spinal injury (per this protocol).
- When possible, the highest level of care on scene will determine if spinal motion restriction is to be used or discontinued (collar removed, etc.)
- A long spine board is one of multiple modalities that can be used to minimize spinal movement. Electing not to use a long spine board will not constitute a deviation from the standard of care.
- Long spine boards do not have a role in transporting patients between facilities



## 2015 NYS BLS Protocol Update Frequently Asked Question

1. What will the webinar include?
  - a. Updated hemorrhage control protocol information
  - b. Suspected spinal injury protocol information
2. How do I watch the webinar?
  - a. As of August 7<sup>th</sup>, all live session webinars are full.
  - b. You need to register through WebEx using the links provided for the date of the webinar you wish to attend.
  - c. The webinar can be watched on computers, tablets, smartphones, etc. Any device that has an internet connection with the required software can be used.
  - d. The audio for the webinar will be broadcast through Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP). This means you do not need to call-in using a telephone connection. The audio will come through your devices sound system, i.e. computer speakers, Bluetooth device, etc.
  - e. If the sessions are full and you are unable to register, you can utilize the recorded version link.
3. What if I have technical problems?
  - a. WebEx provides support for technical problems. <http://www.webex.com>
4. What is the deadline for providers to obtain the update?
  - a. October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015
5. What if I can't make any of the live webinars?
  - a. See last page of this document for the recorded version information.
6. Will the Practical Skills Exam change?
  - a. Not at this time. There may be a future change, but the process is being reviewed. We also want to assure we are as close to the National Standards as possible with regards to education and testing.
7. When will the written certification exam change?
  - a. All course testing in September 2015 will have the appropriate changes.
  - b. There will be progressive changes over the next year.
8. What about students who take the certification exam in August? What should they do?

- a. They should not watch or review the protocol update information until after they take their certification exams. Then, they should register and watch the recorded version. This should reduce any misunderstandings during the certification examinations.
9. Can a group of people watch the webinar together?
- a. Absolutely!! Each person still needs to register for the webinar through WebEx so we have their information. After the webinar, they can log on and take the quiz. The quiz will be available for 2 weeks after the webinar they registered for.
10. Can the skills portion be done immediately after the webinar?
- a. Yes. Many entities are doing this.
  - b. The skills component can be done in groups of up to 6 providers with an instructor overseeing the group.
  - c. ***This is not a testing station!*** These skills sessions should be treated as a learning experience where students and instructors alike work together through different scenarios to get use to the new skills. Everyone should take turns role-playing different tasks of the skills. There is no need to “evaluate” a single student in a one-on-one, testing type of environment. The skills sheets are to be used to meet the psychomotor objectives of the training.
11. Who is required to teach the skills component?
- a. The skills component must be overseen/taught by a NYS CLI or CIC.
  - b. Agencies who are in the CME Recertification Program should reach out to the CIC they are affiliated with for the program to determine if they can assist in the training.
  - c. Your Regional EMS Council can also assist in providing you with potential instructors within your area.
  - d. Course sponsors, who provide certification courses, are also an excellent source to find an instructor.
12. Who is responsible to assure providers obtain the training?
- a. Ultimately, EMS agencies need to assure that their staff have the appropriate and required training to function within their agency.
  - b. If a provider has not completed the training by October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015, the agency will decide whether or not the provider can operate within their agency.
  - c. Agencies need to have a copy of the CME certificate or the providers email from WebEx with their quiz results and their skills check-sheet in the provider’s personnel file.
13. Will there be CME’s available for the training?
- a. Yes. The current plan is to provide each provider with a certificate of completion for 3 hours of CME.

- b. If the provider does not receive their certificate, they can use their email from WebEx that shows their quiz results as proof of attendance and receive the 3 hours.
- c. The certificates will be emailed to the providers in September and October.
- d. The CME's can be used for Preparatory or Trauma core content, as well as Additional Hours.
- e. If needed, the CIC number of 4117 can be utilized for documentation purposes.

14. Is there state funding for this training?

- a. No. This is a protocol update and not a certification course. So, therefore, there is no legislatively approved funds available.
- b. Agencies can utilize BEMS reimbursement dollars from training and certification of their providers to help pay for any training expenses.
- c. The CME Recertification Program funding can also be utilized.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew G. Johnson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Andrew G. Johnson, Deputy Director  
Bureau of Emergency Medical Services  
Education and Certification



## NYS Bureau of Emergency Medical Services

### 2015 BLS Protocol Update Training

This training is for all NYS certified EMS providers. Training must be completed by October 31, 2015.

1. Click on this link:  
<https://meetny.webex.com/meetny/lsr.php?RCID=1969029e585943c9869b00e4b18d4ea7>
2. This will bring you to the Registration Information page. Fill-in your information and click on "Register".
3. After clicking on "Register", a new window will open to play the recorded session. Depending on your internet connection and network traffic, it may take a couple of minutes for the video to buffer and begin playing.
4. When you are done watching the video, close the video playing window by clicking on the "X" in the upper right corner of the window. This will open a new window, "Session Information: NYS 2015 BLS Protocol Update".
5. Click on, "Register" and fill-in your information.
6. Click on "Register". This will open a page entitled "Registration Confirmed".
7. Click on "Ok". This will send you 2 separate emails with your registration ID and password for the test. You can use the link in either email. In either email, click on the link after "Go to".
8. This will bring you to the Session Information page. At the bottom of the page click on, "Take Test" next to a green arrow.
9. Make sure your Registration ID from your email in step 7 above matches the Registration ID pre-filled in. If it doesn't, enter your unique ID from the email. Enter the password, "spinal2015" and click "Ok".
10. Confirm your information in the next window and click on "Take Test".
11. Once you complete the test you will receive an email from WebEx with your score. A score of 80% is passing. If you don't achieve 80%, you can repeat this process to take the test up to an additional 2 times. If you do not pass the test after your third attempt, you will need to watch the webinar again and attempt the test again.

If you wish to download a copy of the webinar for use at a later date, [click HERE](#).