



CENTRAL SHENANDOAH EMS COUNCIL

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To: CSEMS ALS providers

From: Matt Painter
Executive Director

Re: Protocol Changes. Important information!

As you know over the last year we have been working to change the patient treatment protocols. The new American Heart Guidelines were released this past year. These determined many of the ALS treatment protocols. We have finally compiled all of these changes into one draft version of the new protocols. The pediatric protocols have not been posted; we are still working on these. I don't expect any major changes in pediatrics anyway. There has been discussion from some of the OMD's to take out pediatric intubation. I am strongly opposed to this. I think we can de-emphasize it and focus more on BLS airway, but to take it out all together? It would help for you to offer your comments on this to your OMD.

Each protocol has been totally revised in an effort to make each level of provider's treatment area very distinct. Something we felt was not very clear in the version we are using now. We are working very hard to come up with a great set of protocols that finds harmony between the providers and the OMD's.

We invite your input on these protocols, as you are the one's who will use them.

The document was over 40 pages. To save on copying and postage we decided to post them on our website. Would have been 150 mailings times 40 pages each just to the agencies! If you do not have internet access and wish to have a copy we will be glad to send them to you. Just call the office and we will mail them to you. We will mail the final version to everyone when that time arrives. The website also has a feedback form so you can send us your comments and suggestions. Our web address is www.csems.vaems.org.

Some protocols have totally changed and others have remained mostly the same. The OMD's have reviewed the version posted now. Many of the changes we would like to make were not successful do to the cost of certain drugs. For example consideration was given to Amiodarone. This drug costs \$300 just for the first dose. The pharmacies said if we put expensive drugs like this in the box then the agency would have to pay for them and then bill the patient etc. Many of the drugs such as Amiodarone were questionable in there effectiveness over less expensive drugs anyway. We were able to add 5 new drugs with minimal extra cost.

We are trying to find the \$10,000 funding needed for new protocol books that will be printed upon adoption of the final version. We are seeking corporate donations and possible grant funding. We are attempting to obtain enough funding to provide EVERY CSEMS provider one free copy.

That brings you up to date on where we stand with these. Our goal is to have the final approved version complete by September and review these at the October skills drill.

Once again please look over the draft version. The more input and ideas we have the better the result. Thank you for all you do for EMS in our region!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Sincerely,

Matt Painter



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