
Western Regional Emergency Medical Advisory Committee (WREMAC)

Craig Cooley, MD, MPH, EMT-P, FACEP
Chairman

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UPDATED ANNOUNCEMENT!

EMS Providers

2/2/2009

Dear Provider,

As many of you may be aware, there have been updates made to the WREMAC Protocols in the last few weeks. These include new standing orders for anti-nausea and pain medication administration, changes in the treatment of patients with respiratory symptoms and CPAP, among others.

These changes are available for review and download at www.wremac.com. Also at the website you will find the test that all ALS providers are required to pass prior to implementing these changes.

A "Frequently Asked Questions" (FAQ) document is attached to this notice. Please refer to this document to find answers to some of the more common questions regarding the roll-out. Should you need any further information not found in the FAQ attachment, please contact your Medical Director, Program Agency, or myself through the WREMAC.

Please note that the WREMAC has established March 15, 2009 as the deadline for completing this update. Any advanced-level provider (Intermediate, Critical Care, Paramedic) who has not completed the on-line protocol update by March 15, 2009 must be taken off-line until he/she completes the on-line rollout.

Thank you for all your continued service to the citizens of WNY.

Sincerely,

Craig Cooley MD, MPH, EMT-P, FACEP
WREMAC Chair

CC/ajm

2008 PROTOCOL UPDATES

“Frequently Asked Questions”

Why were the protocols revised?

A protocol should be a “living document” that reflects the most current evidence-based practices in medicine. To accomplish this, we must continuously evaluate and revise our protocols.

Who must complete the protocols update?

All advanced EMS providers must complete the on-line update and quiz by **March 15, 2009**. Advanced providers include the following levels of care: Intermediate, Critical Care, and Paramedic.

How do I complete the update?

Providers must go to the WREMAC Web site: www.WREMAC.com and **log in** using EMT number and password you created at the time of the last protocol in-service. Once you have logged in, select **2008 Summary of Changes Rollout Tool** under the protocol heading. Review the changes, complete the test, and print your certificate of completion.

What if I can't remember my user name or password for the WREMAC site?

The user name for the WREMAC site is your EMT number. If you can't remember your password, please select “reset password” and a new password will be sent to your e-mail account. If you no longer use the e-mail account on file with the WREMAC you will need to contact Cathi Peters at (716)-372-0614 or e-mail: cathi@sthcs.org

What protocols were updated?

The Western Regional Emergency Medical Advisory Committee (WREMAC) updated the Advanced Life Support Protocols followed by all advanced providers in the eight-county region of WNY (Allegany, Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Erie, Genesee, Niagara, Orleans, and Wyoming).

Specifically, the following protocols were **updated**:

ADULT:

- Advanced Airway Procedure
- Rapid Sequence Intubation
- Respiratory Signs/Symptoms
- Bradycardia
- Tachycardia with a pulse
- Chest Pain
- Major Trauma/Burns
- Pain/Vomiting Control

PEDIATRIC:

- Advanced Airway Procedure
- Tachycardia with a pulse
- Major Trauma/Burns
- Pediatric Pain Control

Were any new protocols added?

Yes. The following protocols are new to our protocol book:

ADULT:

- Absorbent Hemostatic Agent
- Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) Procedure
- Induced Hypothermia for Return of Spontaneous Circulation (ROSC)

PEDIATRIC:

No new pediatric protocols were added

By when must providers complete the update?

All providers must complete the update by **March 15, 2009**.

What happens if a provider does not complete the update by March 15, 2009?

Any provider who has not completed the update by March 15, 2009 shall be taken off-line. The Agency Medical Director (or his/her designee) shall be notified of anyone who does not complete the update.

How will my Medical Director know if providers complete the update?

Your medical director (or his/her designee) has access to the Website database that maintains the list of providers who have completed the update. Agencies are asked to monitor the progress of their own providers through this update and provide a report to their medical director (or his/her designee).

Will I be issued a new protocol book when I complete the update?

Providers are asked to download the protocol updates/additions from the WREMAC Web site. At this point, no stickers are available but the Web document will print in a size compatible with your existing protocol book. Many providers have taped or glued the update updated/new pages into their current protocol book.

I am an Intermediate. Why must I answer questions on the quiz pertaining to information that only CC's and Medics need to know?

As the WREMAC continues to develop the on-line system it is our hope to streamline this process for future updates. At this point, we must ask that all providers answer all of the questions on the quiz.

What is Induced Hypothermia for Return of Spontaneous Circulation?

Further information concerning this protocol will be circulated by the WREMAC at a later date.