



Hot Topics



The Genesee County Medical Control Authority's

Newsletter for EMS Providers - Also now available online at GCMCA.org

One Hurley Plaza, Flint 48503

Office Phone 810-262-2555

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C-Spine Precautions *Still Required in Many Situations*

cervical spine is important and required.

Some of you may recall the days when it felt like virtually every patient was put on a backboard and full c-spine precautions we put in place. It has been almost 10 years since significant changes were made to protocols and how many patients are treated with spinal immobilization. However, there are still many situations where maintaining patient's

The first step in determining the need for precautions is the mechanism of injury (MOI). Once it is determined the patient's MOI could potentially involve a spinal injury then you will assess for the patient for one of five clinical criteria: 1) altered mental status; 2) use of intoxicants; 3) suspected extremity fracture; 4) motor and/or sensor deficit; or 5) spine pain and or tenderness. **If ANY of these clinical indicators are present then the patient has a positive spinal injury assessment and c-spine precautions must be put in place.** In addition, anyone over the age of 65 with a mechanism of injury with a potential to cause a cervical spine injury must have a c-collar place.

We have recently identified some confusion, misunderstanding, and errors in the application of the protocol and use of c-spine precautions. If in doubt, take steps to protect the patient's head and neck area.



Conflict on Scene? *Call Online Medical Control*

With multiple crews from different agencies responding to calls there occasionally arises a difference of opinion about what treatment should be conducted. Despite the good intentions of those involved these conflicts can lead to a decreased quality of care for the patient.

If two providers of the same level of licensure are having difficulty resolving different approaches to patient care, contact online medical control for support and a clear resolution. And most of all, be professional and keep your patient's well-being as the primary focus.

New Protocols in 2024 *Implementation Begins March 31st*

The state and GCMCA have been revising and reviewing changes to virtually all of the treatment and some systems protocols since the middle of 2022. This process is nearing an end as we finalize approval of the last few protocols.

With this it is expected that the full suite of new protocols will be implemented on March 31, 2024, with distribution and education to occur well in advance of that date. Please pay close attention to future announcements from our office and your agency with details on the rollout. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions now or when the protocols and education are released.