

From the State EMS Medical Director

December
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[http://health.state.tn.us/EMS/
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[http://www.emergencymedical
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*Updated Protocols and
information always available at:*

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/MedicalDirector.htm](http://health.state.tn.us/EMS/MedicalDirector.htm)

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Important Information from the Clinical Issues Committee of the State EMS Board

This is another in the series of irregularly scheduled EMS Medical Director updates from the Clinical Issues Committee of the State EMS Board. The Clinical Issues Committee met in November and the following actions were approved at the EMS Board meeting in December. Minutes of each meeting are available on the State EMS website.

Recently Approved Procedures

Longer Needles for Chest Decompression

CIC recommends the Board change the requirements for the length of chest decompression needles to 3.25 inch. Studies show current required length is too short for 20% of our patients.

Hemostatic Agents

Hemostatic Agents have been approved by use for the board. Improvements to these agents addressed many of the concerns of EMS providers.

EKG in presence of TREATING paramedic

State EMS Board gave approval for EMT to acquire and transmit EKG in the presence of the treating paramedic.

STEMI

State EMS Board supports the concept of EMS establishing destination guidelines for acute cardiovascular illnesses to locations with needed capabilities for rapid intervention and treatment. Efforts are under way by various organizations to develop a statewide STEMI and Stroke treatment system.

Trauma Destination Guidelines in Older Patients

Recent research supports more conservative destination criteria for Level 1 Trauma referral for elderly patients. American College of Surgery/ Committee on Trauma will be revising destination guidelines in the near future. I encourage you to evaluate criteria in use by your service.

EMS Medical Director Continuing Education

EMS Board approved implementing a requirement that EMS Medical Directors must obtain EMS Specific Continuing Education every two years to be eligible for EMS Medical Director position. Compliance will be checked by EMS consultant at annual inspection. In addition, EMS Consultants will be requiring contact with the Medical Director as part of the inspection.

Medical Directors Conference

The 2009 EMS Medical Director's conference will be held in October in Nashville in conjunction with TASA. Currently we are planning half day New EMS Medical Director Course, half day Update. Committee is formulating ideas and looking for speakers. Please let me know if there are specific topics or speakers you would like to see addressed.

Questions, Comments, Concerns can all be asked and addressed on the website:

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