



Department of Health & Human Services

Milwaukee County

Emergency Medical Services



Number: 14-06

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From: M. Riccardo Colella, DO, MPH, FACEP

Section: EMS Medical Director

To: All MC EMS Paramedics, MC EMS Communication Center Staff, MC EMS Staff

Subject: Spinal Movement Precautions and Cardiac Arrest Practice Guidelines

Purpose: New Document Clarification and Distribution

Milwaukee County EMS has received numerous questions regarding the Spinal Movement Precautions practice guideline. The document has been revised to reflect the following clarifications.

1. The guideline is not to be initiated by any provider until they've completed the MC EMS Education Center or FD approved equivalent course in spinal movement precautions. The current Spinal Immobilization standard of care is to be implemented until the training is complete. All paramedics have had the training in refresher and should be implementing the new guidelines. Fire departments are asked to complete training for non-ALS providers by June 30, 2016.
2. The final decision box in the algorithm will read: "High SCI risk with additional distracting complaints other than spine pain?" If yes, they should receive SMP; if no, they may be gently assisted to the stretcher with a c-collar.
3. The final sentence in the third note will read: "A 'short board' or K.E.D may be used as an extrication tool. It does not provide benefit and should not be used when implementing spinal movement precautions."

Another question was forwarded regarding the new Cardiac Arrest Treatment Guideline. The second note allows a responding paramedic to terminate a resuscitation attempt if the patient is in traumatic arrest with a *wide complex* PEA at a rate less than 30. The wide complex qualifier was inadvertently omitted, and has been reinserted in this final version.

The updated guidelines will be forwarded to all EMS Liaisons for distribution to their personnel. They will also be posted to the website.

