

From the State EMS Medical Director

March 2017

Contact the Medical Director

Phone:

901-493-5374

Email:

joeholleymd@gmail.com

Website:

<https://www.tn.gov/health/article/ems-md>

or

<http://www.emergencymedicalresources.com>

Updated Protocols and information always available at:

<https://www.tn.gov/health/article/ems-md-protocols>

or

<http://www.emergencymedicalresources.com>

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

Introduction

Ok, It has been a while since my last newsletter! I'm restarting the newsletter after a long break. My goal is to provide a quick update on the activities at the state level, and inform you of issues that are important to the difficult practice of PreHospital care. Please feel free to submit questions, issues, or articles for future newsletters.

The Impact of Opioid Abuse

The opioid crisis has impacted all EMS providers, and remains a significant issue.

A recent report from the forensic folks noted that that most opiate deaths in parts of Tennessee are prescription medications, and that 98% of these patients did not get Narcan as part of their resuscitation. Clearly, we need to consider opioids in cases of unexplained or unexpected arrest, and keep our index of suspicion high.

In addition, the Clinical Issues Committee has recommended that EMTs be permitted to administer Narcan from multidose vials via injection or intranasal routes. This expands the use from set dose delivery systems such as autoinjectors, etc.

Warning Lights and Siren Use

CIC will present to the State EMS board a new policy related to the use of Red lights and sirens in an effort to educate medical personnel, improve the appropriate use, and support the decision for the use of RLS by the crew caring for the patient. Once finalized, the policy will appear in the Approved Clinical Practices area of the State EMS website.

New Clinical Issues Committee structure

The CIC has many new faces, and we welcome them to the committee. We now have a more structured committee, with

scheduled terms of 3 years and staggered renewals. Our meetings are open, and everyone is welcome to attend.

Crisis Standards of Care

The development of these standards is next on our agenda. We have a challenging task ahead, and input is welcome.

Our next CIC meeting is scheduled for May 15, 2017 at the State EMS Offices. Hope to see you there.

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

<https://www.tn.gov/health/article/ems-md>

or

<http://www.emergencymedicalresources.com>

