



# Hot Topics



The Genesee County Medical Control Authority's

Newsletter for EMS Providers - Also now available online at [GCMCA.org](http://GCMCA.org)

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## MEI Requests

The current Pronouncement of Death/Death in an Ambulance protocol includes an evaluation of the circumstances of a death when EMS arrives on scene (see ME Algorithm to the right). If after reviewing the criteria an EMS crew believes that a MEI needs to respond to the scene they will contact the 911 dispatcher and request a MEI response.

Up until just recently this could only occur if law enforcement was on scene. This has caused additional delays on scene and in the activation of the MEI. Genesee County 911 has recently changed their dispatch policy and EMS crews can now request an MEI prior to an officer being on scene.

With this change we are encouraging all personnel to carefully review the protocol and to understand the ME Algorithm. As you can see from the algorithm, if there is any question about the cause of death or if the death is suspicious, an MEI request needs to be made.

## ME Algorithm

1. "Do I know why this person died?"
  - a. "No" = Report the case (Unexplained deaths are ME cases)
  - b. "Yes" = Go to next question
2. "Was the death in any way related to trauma?"
  - a. Yes = Report the case (Traumatic deaths are ME cases)
  - b. No = Go to the next question
3. "Has the person been to see a doctor within the last 2 days or under the doctor's care at the time of death?"
  - a. No = report the case

If the answers to questions #1 and #3 are 'Yes' and question #2 is 'No' then this case does not require the ME's office to be contacted.

### Exceptions:

- Deaths in custody = always report
- Deaths during a medical procedure = always report
- Deaths of patients in hospice care (e.g., registered hospice working with a hospice agency) do not need to be reported however hospice paperwork must be present

## 12-lead on ALL Suspected MIs

We have recently found that there is a misunderstanding by some paramedics that patients with a suspected myocardial infarction who are a five minute or less transport time away from the hospital do not need to be placed on a 12-lead monitor. This is not correct!



All suspected MI patient should be placed on a monitor and evaluated for a potential cardiac event regardless of the distance to the hospital. This important diagnostic tool is extremely valuable information for the

patient and the receiving hospital.

## Mystery Picture Contest!!

In our last issue we gave you a chance to guess the location of a mystery picture and we had no correct answers. So, we thought we would try again with an image that reveals a little more of the location. If you can correctly identify the location you could win a \$10 gift card. Hint: It is somewhere in Genesee County. Be the first person to contact us with the correct answer and you will win. Either call us at 810-262-2555 or email to [btrevithick@gcmedcontrol.org](mailto:btrevithick@gcmedcontrol.org).

