



# Hot Topics



The Genesee County Medical Control Authority's

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

One Hurley Plaza, Flint 48503

Office Phone 810-262-2555

April 2018

## Get Off the Road – Stay Safe



A dangerous situation for EMS providers can be a patient, family member, or by-stander that turns violent, but the most likely instance of harm occurring results from providing care to patients on a roadway. A motor vehicle accident or medical call in a vehicle places you at risk of being a patient rather than the provider of care.

When treating patients on or near a roadway take these steps: 1) make sure you are wearing a high visibility vest; 2) keep your head up and be aware of oncoming traffic to be prepared for unexpected deviations of other drivers; 3) move as quickly as possible to assess the scene/patient, then move the patient to a more secure location; and 4) request assistance for traffic control from 911.

## Know Patient's Medical Home for Proper Destination

There have likely been many times that you have been faced with a patient who does not have a preference of hospital when you ask them where they want to be transported. Don't just take them to the closest facility (unless they meet the protocol for closest facility).

Instead, attempt to find out where their medical home is. If a patient has a primary care physician who has privileges at a specific hospital, then your patient's best option is to go to that facility. This will allow for patient's medical history, previous tests results, and other important information to be easily accessible. These factors decrease time and cost, and ultimately provide better patient care.

A new GCMCA protocol requiring transport to a patient's medical home (if the patient is stable and/or does not have a specific requested facility) will be implemented soon, so do your part to get your patients to the right destination facility.

## SPINAL PRECAUTIONS FOR MECHANISM

As many of you may recall we made significant changes a few years ago to the protocols related spinal immobilization. This has decreased the number of patients who have unnecessarily been backboarded and c-collared, which has been an improvement in patient care and decreased workload for providers.

But we have seen some cases where providers have taken this new process too far. It is important to recognize that spinal immobilization has not completely disappeared.



We encourage all providers to refresh themselves on the spinal injury assessment protocol for specifics, and understand that patients with a significant mechanism of injury will require proper immobilization.

## *Congratulations!*

Congratulations go out to Jerry Hunt for winning our last contest. He scoured our website and found a hidden picture. His diligence and keen eye won him a \$10 gift card to Subway. Make sure you read future newsletters for a chance to win our next contest.