



Hot Topics



The Genesee County Medical Control Authority's

Newsletter for EMS Providers - Also now available on line at GCMCA.org

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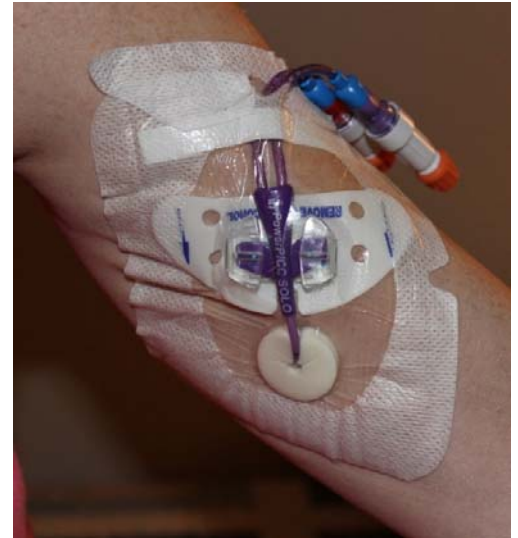
April 2017

Accessing a Patient's PICC – Now an Option

Recent changes to the GCMCA Protocol on vascular access went into effect on April 17th. With the new language paramedics will be allowed to access a patient's PICC line with strict educational criteria and only under certain circumstances. All ALS agencies have been provided with a training outline and will begin working with medics to provide education. The expectation is that access should not be attempted until the training has been completed. Contact your agency for more information and guidance on the training.

The criteria for accessing a patient's PICC line includes the following: 1) priority 1 patients only; 2) based upon the paramedics assessment it appears unlikely that intravenous access would be successful; 3) the patient is in need of fluid resuscitation or medications; and 4) the case is reported to the GCMCA by the 15th of the following month.

We do not anticipate that the use of a PICC line by a paramedic will be a routine occurrence, however, the protocol is now in place, allowing an opportunity to help patients when no other good vascular access intervention is available.



BLS & MFR NALOXONE USAGE STUDY

In October, 2015 the state law requiring BLS and MFR units to carry Naloxone went into effect. A review of all cases by these agencies for the first year was done by the GCMCA PSRO and found mixed results. Of the 25 cases where the medication was used, only 28% of them showed a clear benefit to the patient. The remaining cases were found to have had either an uncertain benefit or no benefit at all.

In addition, in nearly one third of the calls (32%) the protocol was not followed related to the administration of oxygen, with ventilation provider either after medication administration or not at all. The protocol states in bold letters that the medication is only to be given "**AFTER POSITIVE PRESSURE VENTILATION HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED**". Finally, we found that most of the usage was done by BLS crews, with only one case involving the use of the medication by an MFR crew.

Think Spring!!



Contest!

For this month's contest we are offering a \$10 Subway gift card to the first person who can tell us the name of the first nationally recognized EMS educational curriculum and the year in which it was published. Don't wait too long, we had a correct answer within a few minutes for the last contest.