



# *The Monitor*

The monthly electronic newsletter for the Southern Illinois Regional EMS System.

August 2016

**COMMAND:** Dr. Haake wanted to remind everyone of the importance and liabilities associated with refusals. Be mindful of who can give consent, what constitutes mental competence, and the procedure for obtaining a refusal. He encourages everyone to review the A-6.1 refusal protocol. The most important thing to remember is that we, as EMS professionals, should be suspicious of reasons for medical evaluation and not searching for reasons to avoid treatment and transport.

**FINANCE:** Because of the recent passage of the stop-gap state budget, the 2016 EMS Assistance Grant program has been funded. So, if you were awarded a grant from the 2016 EMS Assistance Grant program, you will be receiving your check soon. Also, the 2017 application period is expected to open in September. The Heartsaver AED Grant program was also funded with the stop-gap budget, but the legislators have yet to appropriate the funds.

**LOGISTICS:** The SIH Brain and Spine Institute in conjunction with SIREMS is hosting an EMS Stroke Network Symposium on August 22<sup>nd</sup> from 6p-8p at John A. Logan College Workforce Development Building, room H128. Dr. Haake is making attendance mandatory for SIREMS system preceptors. If you are a system preceptor and cannot attend, you will need to contact the EMS Office and provide Dr. Haake with the details of the conflict. Registration for all attendees can be completed online through the system's website ([www.sirems.com](http://www.sirems.com)) and must be completed by August 17, 2016. Catering will be supplied by Angie's Treats and CEUs will be awarded.

Due to a small amount of preceptor applications received during the regularly scheduled application periods, Dr. Haake is currently accepting preceptor applications through the end of August. The application is on the system website (protocol I-06) and can be submitted back to the EMS Office by fax, email, traditional mail, or dropped in the EMS Office dropbox on the south side of the office.

Remember that IDPH has changed the requirements of EMS continuing education. The document issued by IDPH that summarizes the changes is on our system's website. The most important change is the requirement to obtain minimum amounts of hours in specific topic areas, but all of the changes can be referenced at [www.sirems.com](http://www.sirems.com). Also, contact the EMS Office early to schedule your license renewal.

For the system's EMS Lead Instructors, IDPH will be hosting a meeting for the EMS System Coordinators and Lead Instructors in the downstate regions at Good Samaritan Hospital on Tuesday August 16<sup>th</sup> from 10:00am to 3:30pm. The meeting is intended to give educators and coordinators needed information and provide the ability to ask questions of the Springfield staff. Any EMS Lead Instructors interested can contact the EMS Office for more information.

**OPERATIONS:** For the system Paramedics that have not completed the Fentanyl training: Contact the EMS Office to schedule your Fentanyl training ASAP. All system personnel functioning at the Paramedic level must complete the Fentanyl training in order to administer the medication.

Remember, when you sign a patient care report (PCR), you are agreeing with and attesting to the accuracy of everything documented in that report. So, please read the PCR written by your partners before signing your name to them.

Also dealing with PCRs, IDPH requires you leave a copy of the PCR at the ED prior to leaving after completion of the call. We understand that occasionally, emergency calls may be waiting. And, if that's the case, the completed PCR needs to be returned to the receiving facility as soon as possible and prior to the end of your shift.

If you operate in the SIREMS system on a part-time basis and renew through another system, you are required to submit your continuing education records to the EMS Office. Despite renewing through another system, we must verify your con-ed for compliance in SIREMS. Failure to provide your con-ed records will result in a system suspension. Contact the EMS Office with any questions.

**PLANNING:** Don't forget about our EMS Calendar at [www.sirems.com](http://www.sirems.com)

August 9-10: PHTLS at HRMC

August 11: PALS at Johnson County Ambulance

August 13: SIREMS Triage Tag Day

August 16: IDPH EMS Coordinators and Lead Instructors Meeting, Good Sam

August 22: SIREMS Stroke Training at JALC with Dr. Hornick and Dr. Haake  
Register at [www.sirems.com](http://www.sirems.com). Food provided

September 5: Labor Day

*TIP OF THE MONTH:* Remember to remove your gloves after caring for your patient before entering the cab of the ambulance. Many times, I pass an ambulance on the way to the hospital and see the driver has a case of the blue hands. Either some of our EMS personnel have severe circulatory issues and cyanosis or they are not taking their dirty nitrile gloves off before entering the cab to leave the scene. Please remove gloves before entering the cab to help prevent the spread of infection.

If you have any questions or information for "The Monitor", please contact me at [Brad.Robinson@sih.net](mailto:Brad.Robinson@sih.net) or [SouthernIllinoisRegionalEMS@gmail.com](mailto:SouthernIllinoisRegionalEMS@gmail.com) (08-01-16).