

EMS NEWS

Sponsored by: Washington County EMS Support Program & Washington County Health Systems Inc.
September/October 2004



Change Of Address

In the last newsletter I mentioned that my job responsibilities have changed. Along with the job change is a new title and office location.

My new title will be "Life Support Coordinator". Since I'll be working with Human Resource Development (HRD), my office will be moving to Pangborn Hall sometime in September. As you enter the building, go through the wooden double doors straight ahead, my office will be the last one on the left before going through the next set of doors.

My telephone number is staying the same at 301-790-8378. Please give me a call if you need supplies or have a question.

Donna Carey

Safe Haven For Newborns

Maryland Safe Haven Regulations (House Bill 602) was enacted on October 1, 2003 and is effective as of November 24, 2003. The local Department of Social Services is working with the Hospital, Health Dept, Hagerstown Police, Washington County Sheriff, and State Police to provide guidelines for local implementation.

The purpose of the Maryland Safe Haven Program is to provide mothers of newborns the opportunity to provide safe abandonment of their newborn child.

Designated facilities where a newborn might be taken are the hospital or any police agency.

If the newborn is taken to any of the police stations, the police will call EMS to transport the newborn to the hospital. We will not have (nor can we ask for) any identifying information.

The newborn should be taken to the Emergency Dept at WCH. The police will provide you with the initial Safe Haven assessment. It is important that this form accompany the newborn to the ED. When notifying the ED of transport, please use care with the information shared over the phone/radio. The Committee recommends the message

"we are bringing in a baby born in the community" be used.

Jody Bishop



EMAIS Runsheets

Since we have gone to EMAIS, a concern has been identified with the hospital not receiving their copy of prehospital documentation.

Keep in mind that you still need to print a copy and give it to the ED prior to leaving the Emergency Dept. If you return to the station to complete documentation, you still need to provide the hospital with a printed copy within 24 hours. The "QA copy" of the EMAIS report is no longer put in the box in the EMS Area. The only copies you need to print are for the hospital and your station.

Thank you for your help in resolving this.



Congratulations to Alicia Wyatt and Jeremy Gay on the birth of 8pound 10 ounce Haleigh Lynn Gay.

How Halloween Came About

The history of Halloween goes back more than 2000 years. The earliest celebrations of Halloween were among the Celtic people who lived in the areas which are now Great Britain and Northern France.

The Druids, which were the priests of the Celtic people, would build fires on the hilltops in belief that the large fires would help to strengthen the Sun God, and give him power enough to overcome the lord of darkness so that the sun season could continue. At midnight they stop worshipping the Sun God and start to worship Samhain (who was the lord of the dead and of the cold, dark winter season), because he was the ruler for the next six months. They performed ceremonies through the night to ask the spirits to tell the future of the upcoming year. In the morning, each household receives an ember from the fire; this ember was used to start fires in their own homes with the belief that it would ward off evil spirits in the new year.

The Celts continued with their ceremonies until they were conquered by the Roman Catholics. They established All Saints Day or All Hallows Day on November 1. This was a day in which all saints who did not have their own declared holiday were honored. The church hoped that by establishing this holiday, it would do away with the Vigil of Samhain held on October 31; but this was not so.

October 31 was renamed Night of the Witch. It was believed that the devil and all of his followers would come out on this night to perform unholy acts to make a mockery of the All Hallows Day celebration. Throughout the years, the name was shortened to Hallowe'en and then to Halloween.



**** Important ****

Exchanging drug box medications need to be done Monday thru Friday 0800-1630.

If you have a small quantity to exchange, this should be done through Pyxis. If the med isn't available or you have a large quantity to exchange, please contact Donna Carey at 301-790-8378 rather than going directly to the hospital pharmacy.

Due to accountability issues, the pharmacy has advised they will no longer provide medications directly to EMS companies.

Par E

If you encounter an out of county or out of state ambulance company that would like to have access to Par E, please refer them to Donna Carey at 301-790-8378.

An account has to be established for each company that chooses to participate.

Please don't "write in" their name on the board.

Reminder

Please let us know whenever you have a change with information such as address, name, telephone, etc.

This helps the Medical Director when he needs to contact you, as well as ensuring you get local training information as well as this newsletter.

Whenever you complete the MIEMSS paperwork, give us a heads up also.

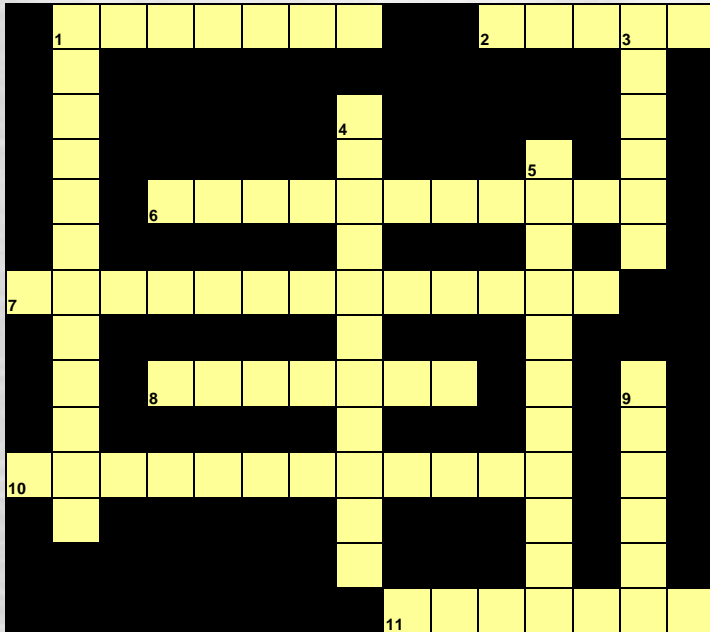
CMS Boosts Medicare Payments for Ambulance Services

According to AHA daily e-news;

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services today issued an interim final rule that will boost Medicare payments for ambulance services by \$840 million over the next five years, beginning July 1. The rule, which implements provisions in the Medicare Modernization Act, is intended to ease the transition to a national fee schedule for ambulances operated by hospitals and other providers that went into effect April 1, 2002. Under the rule, payments will be increased by 1% for urban ambulance services and 2% for rural services provided through 2006. The rule also provides a 25% increase in mileage rates for miles over 50 on trips of 50 miles or more made through 2008. For trips originating in "super-rural" areas, those with the lowest population densities, the rule provides a 22.6% "bonus" increase in the base rate through 2009. The rule will be published in the July 1 Federal Register, with comments accepted until Aug.30.



Thanks to EMT-P Austin Rinker for this issue's puzzle on Trauma



Across

1. discuss events
2. explosion injuries
6. 1st phase of trauma
7. pieces of projectile
8. type of injury from environmental pressures
10. 3rd phase of trauma
11. head-on impact

Down

1. type of injury following impact
3. injuries from games
4. type of injury from crushing stretching object
5. changes shape after striking tissue
9. leading cause of death (1-36 yrs)

EMAIS Computers

Recently, the WCVFRA has identified problems with EMS providers tampering with the EMAIS computers, as well as problems with the CPUs being kicked and damaged. To eliminate the down time while repairing the computers the following steps are being taken:

1. All CPUs will be placed underneath the monitors.
2. Access to the computers will be limited to Microsoft Word and the EMAIS website.

Should tampering with the computers continue, the WCVFRA will review the situation to determine further action. Any questions should be directed to the Brigitte at 301-714-0812








Pennsylvania DNR

Pennsylvania has adopted a DNR protocol. This is a picture of the form and bracelet.

According to Maryland Protocol, we can honor out of state DNR forms, which should be treated as Option B.



September 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6 Labor Day	7	8	9	10	11  Patriot Day
12	13	14	15	16 Rosh Hashanah	17 MFRI Paramedic Refresher	18
19 Paramedic Refresher	20	21	22  1st day of autumn	23	24	25 Yom Kippur
26	27	28	29 	30 		

October 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 MFRI Paramedic Refresher	2
3 Paramedic Refresher	4	5	6 	7	8	9
10	11 Columbus Day	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 Halloween 						