

THE REGIONAL EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COUNCIL OF NEW YORK CITY, INC.

NYC Regional Emergency Medical Advisory Committee (REMAC) Meeting Minutes October 17, 2023

The REMAC Meeting was on October 17, 2023, at 475 Riverside Drive, New York, New York. The meeting was simultaneously broadcast on YouTube, and a full recording can be viewed at www.nycremsco.org.

REMAC Member	Present
Fire Department, City of New York (10)	
Commissioner or Non-Physician Designee (1) Grace Cacciola, EMTP (Grace.Cacciola@fdny.nyc.gov)	x
Medical Directors (5) Glenn Asaeda, MD (asaedag@fdny.nyc.gov)	x
Bradley Kaufman, MD, 2nd Vice Chair (kaufmab@fdny.nyc.gov)	x
Dario Gonzalez, MD (gonzald1@fdny.nyc.gov)	x
Nathan Reisman, MD (nathan.reisman@fdny.nyc.gov)	x
Pam Lai, MD Pamela Lai (pamela.lai@fdny.nyc.gov) Alternate: Sophia Gorgens (Sophia.gorgens@fdny.nyc.gov)	x
On-Line Medical Control Physicians (2) Nikolaos Alexandrou (Nikolaos.Alexandrou@fdny.nyc.gov)	x
Doug Isaacs, MD (isaacsd@fdny.nyc.gov) Alternate: William Haussner, MD (william.haussner@fdny.nyc.gov)	x
Emergency Medical Technicians (Basic/Paramedic) (2) Kevin Ward, EMTP (Kevin.Ward@fdny.nyc.gov) Annemarie Girgenti, EMT-P (Annemarie.Girgenti@fdny.nyc.gov)	
Greater New York Hospital Association	
President or Non-Physician Designee (1) Andrew Dahl (ADahl@GNYHA.org) Alternate: Alison Burke (aburke@gnyha.org)	
Emergency Department Physician (1) Jeffrey Rabrich, MD, 1st Vice Chair (jrabrich@chpnet.org) Alternate: Lauryn Kosturko, MD (lauryn.kosturko@gmail.com)	x
Ambulance Service Medical Director (1) Reed Caldwell, MD (Reed.Caldwell@nyulangone.org) Alternate: Jonathan Berkowitz, MD (jberkowitz3@northwell.edu)	
On-Line Medical Control Physicians (2) Lewis Marshall, MD, JD (lmarshmdjd58@gmail.com) Michael Redlener, MD (mredlener@mountsinai.org)	x
Emergency Medical Technicians (Basic/Paramedic) (2) Dominick Battinelli, EMTP (dbattinelli@northwell.edu) Efrain Rendon, EMT (erendon@jhmc.org)	x
Downstate New York Ambulance Association (DNYAA)	
Ambulance Service Medical Director (1) Josef Schenker, MD, Chair (jds9005@nyp.org)	x
Emergency Medical Technicians (Basic/Paramedic) (2) Michael Vatch, EMTP (mvatch@seniorcareems.net) Robert Ackerman, EMTP (rackerman@seniorcareems.net)	
NYS Volunteer Ambulance & Rescue Association/District 4 & 18	
Ambulance Service Medical Director (1)	

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Joseph Bove, MD (bovejoseph933@gmail.com)	
Emergency Medical Technicians (Basic/Paramedic) (2)	
Sean Graves, EMT	
Vacant EMT/EMTP Seat	
Trauma Surgeon	
Arthur Cooper, MD (ac38@columbia.edu)	x
Pediatric Trauma Surgeon	
Vacant	
Burn Surgeon	
Robert J. Winchell, MD (row9057@med.cornell.edu)	x
New York City Police Department Physician	
Edward Jarvis, MD (jarvise@me.com)	x
Alternate: Nicholas Vaccari, MD (nv104md@gmail.com)	
New York City Health & Hospitals Physician	
Marc Kanter, MD (marckanter@gmail.com)	x
Alternate: Cherisse Berry, MD (Cherisse.Berry@nyumc.org)	
Regional EMS Council of New York City Physician	
Robert Crupi, MD (roc9149@nyp.org)	x
New York City Department of Health & Mental Hygiene-Emergency Preparedness Program Physician	
Mary Foote, MD, MPH (cguinmd@health.nyc.gov)	
Alternate Vacant	
EMS Community Emergency Department	
Emergency Department Medical Directors (2)	
Laura Iavicoli, MD (iavicoll@nychhc.org)	
Alternate: Stuart Kessler, MD (kesslers@nychhc.org)	x
Matthew Fink MD (mfink@med.cornell.edu)	
Alternate: Wallace Carter, MD (wac9010@nyp.org)	
Emergency Department Nurses* (2)	
Eric Cohen, RN (traumamanager@gmail.com)	
Vacant RN Seat	
Emergency Department Administrators*/Physicians (2)	
Kevin Munjal, MD (kevin.munjal@gmail.com)	x
Cindy Baseluos, MD (cbaseluos@rumcsi.org)	x
Psychiatric Emergency Medicine Physician	
Vacant Physician Seat	
Pediatric Emergency Medicine Physician	
Matthew Harris, MD (MHarris13@northwell.edu)	x
Paramedic Program Medical Director	
Non-Municipal (1)	
Jessica van Voorhees, MD (jbvanvoorhees@me.com)	
Municipal/FDNY EMS (1)	
Benjamin Zabar, MD (Benjamin.Zabar@fdny.nyc.gov)	x
Medical Standards Committee	
Non-Municipal (1)	
Paul Barbara, MD (pjbarbara@me.com)	x
Alternate: Jonathan Berkowitz, MD (jberkowitz3@northwell.edu)	
Municipal/FDNY EMS (1)	
David Ben-Eli, MD (benelid@fdny.nyc.gov)	x
Medical Society of The State of New York Physician	

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	Peter Wyer, MD (pwyer1@gmail.com) Alternate: Erik Blutinger (erik.blutinger@mountsinai.org)	x
At Large (2) (non-voting)		
	Yedidiah Langsam, PhD, EMTP (langsam@sci.brooklyn.cuny.edu)	
	Anthony Shallash, MD (tony.shallash@gmail.com)	x
Public (consumer) (1)		
	Vacant	

STAFF: Marie Diglio, Executive Director
 Scott Chiang, CTC Coordinator/Emergency Preparedness
 Charles Ung, CTC Assistant
 Joseph Raneri, Information System Data Coordinator
 Michelle S. Klemm, Operations Assistant

GUESTS: Frank Cheng, FDNY
 Chris Guszack, MD, FDNY
 Pesach Zirkind, EMTP, Maimonides

The following is an **ABRIDGED** version of the meeting minutes. A full meeting recording is available at www.nycremsco.org.

Dr. Josef Schenker (Chair, REMAC) called the meeting to order at 6:20 p.m. Michelle Klemm conducted a roll call attendance, and a quorum was present. The committee approved the Minutes of the April 18, 2023 meeting.

There was a moment of silence for Captain Gilbert Medina and Dr. Paul Hansard, both from FDNY EMS.

CORRESPONDENCE REPORT

The Offices of the Council received the following correspondence:

- Membership:
 - Annemarie Girgenti, EMTP, requested to be excused from the meeting.
- FDNY EMS:
 - A memo was received from Michael J. Fields, Chief of EMS, announcing the opening of Maimonides' Bay Ridge Emergency Department (H94) on Tuesday, July 25, 2023, at 0700 hours. This stand-alone Emergency Department's main hospital address is 9036 7th Avenue, Brooklyn, New York. The Emergency

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Department entrance is 699 92nd Street, Brooklyn, New York. The following CCC Codes will be accepted: General Emergency Department (GED) and Pediatric General Emergency Department (PGED).

- A funeral announcement was received for Captain Gilbert Medina, who died on September 28, 2023. A memorial ceremony was held at Fort Totten on October 8, 2023.

- NYS DOH Bureau of Emergency Medical Services and Trauma Systems:
 - Maimonides' stand-alone Emergency Department received Phase 1 Approval effective July 13, 2023. This approval is based on a review of submitted documentation and/or an onsite inspection by a NYS DOH representative and, if applicable, the architect's letter of code compliance. If this project results in a change to the Operating Certificate, a new one will be issued.
 - A letter stated that EMS agencies applying for Limited-Service Laboratory Registration with Wadsworth must use the latest application forms to avoid having their applications returned. All agencies that conduct blood glucose testing must have CLIA waivers and only volunteer EMS agencies are eligible for fee waivers. Download necessary materials from <http://wadsworth.org/regulatory/lep/limited-service-lab-certs>.
 - A full-time EMS Conference Specialist Position is available for the Vital Signs Conference.
 - An EMS Salary Survey was received requesting information from EMS providers about salaries and benefits. The primary aim of this survey is to obtain accurate and current salary/benefits data that will serve as a foundation for meaningful conversations and decision-making at the upcoming State EMS Council Meeting. [EMS Salary Survey | Survey Builder \(ny.gov\)](#)
 - CME on Vital Signs Academy, Week of July 17, 2023
 - CME on Vital Signs Academy, Week of May 29, 2023
 - SEMSCO requests copies of your current performance measures to discuss with the State EMS Council and agency performance standards advisory groups. Please click the link below to the SEMSCO Part S Performance Measures Survey for more information and to submit a copy of your current performance measures: [SEMSCO Part S Performance Measures Survey | Survey Builder \(ny.gov\)](#).

NYS DOH Enforcements:

- **Kyle L. Kiehn, Syracuse, NY, EMT 437740**, issued a formal reprimand and is placed on probation for three (3) years, effective 5/3/23, for violations of 10 NYCRR Part 800.16 (a) (13). Assessed a civil penalty of \$2,000. \$1,500 is stayed pending no further violations during probation.
- **Vincent Visceglia, Selden, NY, EMT 310254**, revoked effective 5/4/23 for violations 10 NYCRR Part 800.16 (a) (6).
- **Robert Ortiz Jr., Brooklyn, NY, EMT 378919**, surrendered effective 6/1/23 for 10 NYCRR Part 800.16 (a) (8) violations.

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- **College Point Community Ambulance Corps, Inc., College Point, NY, Agency 7343**, surrendered their operating certificate effective 6/7/23 for PHL 3012 (1) (f) violations.
- **Danielle Winters, Hopewell Junction, NY, EMT 472680**, suspended for one (1) year effective 4/25/23 for violations of 10 NYCRR Part 800.3 (am), 800.3 (al), 800.3 (ao), 800.15 (a) and 800.15 (b) (1).
- **Francisco Garcia, Shirley, NY, EMT 430670**, revoked effective 6/7/23 for 10 NYCRR Part 800.16 (a) (5) violations.
- **Shawn R. Woods, Star Lake, NY, EMT 405691**, suspended for one (1) year effective 6/1/23. The suspension is stayed and placed on probation for three (3) years effective 6/1/23 for violations of 10 NYCRR Part 800.15 (a) (1) and (2), 800.16 (a) (1) and (2) (b), 800.16 (a) (11) and (c) and 800.16 (a) (11). Assessed a civil penalty of \$2,000.
- **Jevonte Osterhout, Albany, NY, EMT 375786**, surrendered effective 8/7/23 for 10 NYCRR Part 800.16 (a) (5) violations.
- **Brian Torres, Spencerport, NY, EMT 266687**, suspended for one (1) year effective 7/17/23. The suspension is stayed and placed on probation for three (3) years effective 7/17/23 for violations of 10 NYCRR Part 800.16 (a) (1), (2), (3) and (9). Assessed a civil penalty of \$2,000.
- Enforcement Actions (for both providers and agencies) can be viewed on the NYS DOH BEMS&TS EMS Disciplinary Actions-Enforcement Actions page at <https://www.health.ny.gov/professionals/ems/sanctions.htm>.
- Ambulance Agencies:
 - A funeral announcement was received from the Gerritsen Beach Fire Department for former Chief Arthur "Artie" DeMello.
 - Keith Herrera, Director of Emergency Medical Services at New York-Presbyterian, informed the Office of the Regional Council that there is a Ketamine shortage, and they are temporarily removing it from their controlled substance formulary.
- CME/Training:

The following events were received and distributed:

 - The Center for Emergency Medicine of Western Pennsylvania, Inc. is hosting a CCEMTP course from November 6-21, 2023. Register at [CCEMTP – Office of Education \(centerem.org\)](https://www.centerem.org).
 - The Capital District Regional Health Emergency Preparedness Coalition is hosting a Pediatric Emergency Preparedness Seminar on Wednesday, September 20, 2023, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The event offers both in-person and virtual sessions. Participants must register via the NYSDOH Learning Management System at www.nylearnsph.com. The course's name is CDR-HEPC-BP5-Pediatric Seminar.

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- A Critical Care Cardiology Symposium will be held at NYU Langone's Alumni Hall on October 20-21, 2023. Register at nyulmc.org/critcarecardscme.
- A NAEMSP Foundations of Medical Oversight Course will be held on November 15-16, from 12 p.m.-4 p.m. The cost is \$200 for Attending Physicians and \$100 for Resident Physicians or EMS Professionals. Course participation can earn participants 6.75 AMA PRA Category 1 or CAPCE credits. Register at <https://portal.naemsp.org/integratedEvents/home/FOMOC-REGIONAL-NY-NOVEMBER-15-16-2023>.
- An announcement was received for the "Center for EMS: Critical Care Transport Review Program" offered by Yale New Haven Health at Yale New Haven Hospital. For more information, email Sara Preziosi at sara.preziosi@ynhh.org.
- An announcement was received for the "Grand Rounds: The 2022 Bronx Fire: A Trauma and Burn Center Response" CME, which the Icahn School of Medicine hosted at Mount Sinai on August 24, 2023.
- Project Echo and Upstate Medical University hosted a "Burn Echo Clinic: Electrical Injuries with a Focus on Pre-hospital Providers" on August 15, 2023.
- NYSVARA Newsletter 23 EMS Events - CMEs, Courses & Conferences
- North Shore University Hospital hosted an EMS Week 2023 Lecture Series on "Emergency Medicine-Trauma- Critical Care," from May 22 to May 26.
- Other:
 - A community of key Region 2 special pathogen preparedness and response voices met for a Region 2 Regional Emerging Special Pathogen Treatment Center (RESPTC) event on August 23, 2023.
 - The State of 911 Webinar Series from 911.gov held a "Telecommunicator Mental Health and Wellness" webinar on August 29, 2023, from 12 to 2 p.m.
 - NYSVARA, in cooperation with D'Youville University in Buffalo, NY, announced a scholarship opportunity for NYS EMS Providers. D'Youville offers a range of allied health and other majors. Students interested in learning more about the scholarships must email Jeremiah Grabowski at grabowsj@dyc.edu and copy scholarships@nysvara.org.
 - EMS.gov announced that the National EMS Advisory Council met on August 9-10. The members of NEMSAC meet multiple times annually to offer counsel and recommendations about EMS to the Federal Interagency Committee on EMS (FICEMS) and the Secretary of the Department of Transportation (DOT) through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).
 - A MedWatch Newsletter received said, "Draeger Medical Recalls Oxylog 3000 Plus Emergency and Transport Ventilators for Risk of Unexpected Depleted Battery and Ventilator Stop."
 - A Full-Time Faculty Member position for Paramedics is available at the Borough of Manhattan Community College.

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- An Assistant Director Emergency Management position is available at Columbia University.
- The New York State Volunteer Ambulance & Rescue Association, Inc. (NYSVARA), sent a newsletter summarizing the “EMS Provisions 2023-2024 NYS Budget and 2023 State Legislative Session”. The newsletter highlighted several achievements, including an increase in Medicaid ambulance payment rates, the passage of Direct Pay and Community Paramedicine legislation, an increase in state EMS course reimbursements for EMS squad members, and funding for an EMS recruitment and retention campaign.
- A NYU Langone EMT Training Center Flyer announced their new EMT courses.
- The United New York Ambulance Network provided a memorandum of support for "S1466 Breslin/A240-A Magnarelli, " which supports direct payments for ambulance providers.
- An EMS Program Director position is available at the Center for Allied Health Education.
- Senator Kirsten Gillibrand hosted a New York First Responders Summit on July 27, 2023, in Washington, DC.
- New York State Volunteer Ambulance & Rescue Association, Inc. (NYSVARA), " NYS Budget News, " May 7, 2023.
- A New York State Volunteer Ambulance & Rescue Association, Inc. (NYSVARA) newsletter announced that two new NYS DOH EMS Policy Statements were issued and posted on the DOH website. They are "[23-08: Pilot Educational Programs](#)" and "[23-09: Course Funding-Course Sponsors and EMS Agencies.](#)"

The Office of the Council sent the following correspondence:

- Agendas, Minutes, and associated attachments for the meeting.
- Latima Meynard created a GoFundMe fundraiser for Jennel R., a NYC Paramedic program student in good standing who could not afford the remaining tuition. The fundraiser link was sent to EMS agencies.
- An announcement was sent to EMS services announcing Maimonides opening a new stand-alone Emergency Department with contact numbers.
- REMAC Advisories:
 - 2023-04 NYC REMAC Emergency Change Pain Management Paramedic Level
 - 2023-05 NYC REMAC Emergency Change Pain Management Paramedic Level UPDATED
- The Office of the Regional EMS Council of NYC is updating its databases. It has requested that all ambulance agencies provide updated information.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Josef Schenker, MD, reported that the Executive Committee met before the REMAC meeting. The following is a summary:

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- The Executive Committee formed a Nominations Committee to review officer nominations for REMAC and its subcommittees. The committee recommends the following slate for reappointment:
 - Josef Schenker, MD, REMAC Committee Chairperson
 - Bradley Kaufman, MD, REMAC Committee Vice Chairperson
 - Jeffrey Rabrich, MD, REMAC Committee 2nd Vice Chairperson
 - David Ben-Eli, MD, Medical Standards Committee Chairperson
 - Pamela Lai, MD, Protocol Committee Chairperson
 - Paul Barbara, MD, Certification and Credentialing Committee Chairperson
 - Michael Redlener, MD, Quality Improvement Committee Chairperson

Vice-chair positions are available on the Protocol, Certification and Credentialing, and Quality Improvement committees. Committee members can send all nominations to Marie Diglio. Nominees will be announced at the next REMAC meeting.

- The committee will be reviewing attendance records to determine the status of membership. During the REMAC meeting, Dr. Schenker highlighted the significance of regularly attending committee meetings. Members are required to attend at least four meetings each year. If a member fails to meet this requirement and is still reappointed, the appointing organization must provide a specific reason for the appointment.
- Effective January 2024, New York-Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital will discontinue its on-line medical control (OLMC) service. Although the hospital will continue to provide OLMC until all agencies find alternative solutions, this change will present significant challenges for several proprietary and volunteer agencies that depend on the hospital for OLMC. There are five operating On-line Medical Control facilities in the region. However, it is necessary to identify new facilities to compensate for the loss of NY Presbyterian-Methodist's OLMC service. The two potential ideas discussed during the Executive Committee meeting were establishing an internal, regional on-line medical control facility or seeking assistance from an outside agency such as Health + Hospitals. During the REMAC meeting, members raised concerns about transferring the hospital's on-line medical control direction to FDNY, the cost of on-line medical control, and the possibility of charging agencies.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Certification & Credentialing Committee (Paul Barbara, MD, Chair)

The Certification & Credentialing Committee met on October 13, 2023. David Ben-Eli, MD, provided the Certification & Credentialing report in the Medical Standards report.

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The next Certification & Credentialing Committee meeting is on November 16, 2023, at 10 a.m. via Microsoft Teams.

Medical Standards (David Ben-Eli, MD, Chair)

David Ben-Eli, MD, reported that Medical Standards met before the REMAC Committee Meeting. The following is a summary:

- Kevin Ward, EMTP, requested a change in the Certification and Credentialing Manual to align with the New York State Department of Health. According to the manual, Paramedics must submit their CME package 90 days before expiration, but Kevin Ward proposed changing the submission date to 45 days. The committee will provide formal clarification language for Medical Standards and REMAC to review.
- David Ben-Eli, MD, reported that protocols are being forwarded to REMAC for voting. Pamela Lai, MD, presented the protocols for review in the Protocol Committee report.

The next Medical Standards Committee meeting is on November 14, 2023, at 3:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Protocol Committee (Pamela Lai, MD, Chair)

Pamela Lai, MD, reported that the Protocol Committee met on September 8, 2023. The following is a summary:

- Medical Standards brought forward a seconded motion to REMAC to accept revisions to the **“General Pain Management (Adult and Pediatric)”** protocol. The proposed changes clarify the titration of Morphine and Fentanyl.

Marie Diglio conducted a roll call vote, and the results were 20 Approved, 0 Opposed, and 1 Abstention. The motion carried.

- Medical Standards brought forward a seconded motion to REMAC to accept revisions to **“Appendix B: Universal Approach to the EMS Call”** in the Appendix. The proposed change eliminates “elevate legs as needed” during circulation management of the primary patient assessment.

Marie Diglio conducted a roll call vote, and the results were 20 Approved, 0 Opposed, and 0 Abstentions. The motion carried.

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- Medical Standards brought forward a seconded motion to REMAC to accept revisions to the **“Alternative Treatment/Alternative Transport Destination Decisions”** in the General Operating Procedures. The proposed changes state:

The patient must be offered either treat-in-place with patient release or transport to an alternate destination if that patient meets the criteria in Appendix P: Alternate Destination/Treat-in-Place Patient Selection Criteria. If the patient refuses despite appropriate explanations, then the patient may be offered transport to the nearest 911 System Ambulance Destination Emergency Department (Appendix I), unless the patient has any of the following conditions...

Marie Diglio conducted a roll call vote, and the results were 20 Approved, 0 Opposed, and 0 Abstentions. The motion carried.

- Medical Standards brought forward a seconded motion REMAC to accept revisions to **“Appendix P: Alternate Destination/Treat-in-Place Patient Selection Criteria”** in Appendix P. The proposed changes are the inclusion and exclusion criteria for alternate destination and treat-in-place patient selection criteria. Medical Standards approved these changes on June 6, 2023.

Marie Diglio conducted a roll call vote, and the results were 19 Approved, 0 Opposed, and 1 Abstention. The motion carried.

- Medical Standards brought forward a seconded motion to REMAC to accept revisions to the **“Severe Bradycardia (Pediatric)”** protocol. The proposed changes in the "CFR and All Provider Levels" section are the following:

Check for a pulse every two (2) minutes and perform the following:

- Heart rate \geq 60 beats/min AND patient is NOT adequately breathing, ventilate at a rate of 20 breaths/min using a bag valve mask and oxygen. Check for a pulse every one minute.
- Heart rate $>$ 60 beats/min AND patient is adequately breathing (both in rate and volume for age), administer oxygen via non-rebreather mask.

The other changes made to the “Key Points/Considerations” section were to emphasize the use of a “PEEP valve, if available, when performing assisted ventilations” and to “Evaluate for the evidence of ingestions (i.e., beta-blockers, calcium-channel blockers) and treat in accordance to respective protocols.”

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Marie Diglio conducted a roll call vote, and the results were 21 Approved, 0 Opposed, and 1 Abstention. The motion carried.

- Medical Standards brought forward a seconded motion to REMAC to accept revisions to the **“Anaphylaxis/Severe Allergic Reaction (Adult and Pediatric)”** protocol. One proposed change is the new definition of anaphylaxis that aligns with the national allergy societies. The protocol will define anaphylaxis as an allergic reaction with either respiratory compromise, signs of shock, or two or more signs/symptoms that affect the skin, mucosal, or gastrointestinal systems. Another definition is a history of anaphylaxis, known allergen exposure, and one of the mucosal or gastrointestinal signs/symptoms. Other changes include age-based dosing for Ipratropium Bromide and Albuterol, and if a Paramedic arrives first on the scene, they can administer the titrated dose if needed. These changes also affect the Asthma/COPD/Wheezing Protocol.

Marie Diglio conducted a roll call vote, and the results were 21 Approved, 0 Opposed, and 0 Abstentions. The motion carried.

- Medical Standards brought forward a seconded motion to REMAC to accept revisions to the **“Emergency Childbirth”** protocol. This motion changes the New York State Department of Health BLS protocols by moving an EMT skill into the CFR scope of practice by moving the nuchal cord from the EMT section to the CFR section.

Marie Diglio conducted a roll call vote, and the results were 21 Approved, 0 Opposed, and 0 Abstentions. The motion carried.

- Medical Standards brought forward a seconded motion to REMAC to request an exemption from REMAC staffing standards specific to the B-HEARD calls for mental health. These are non-transporting vehicles.

The Behavioral Health Emergency Assistance Response Division (B-HEARD) of the FDNY is responsible for the Mental Health Response Units (MHRUs) that handle psychiatric emergencies. Each unit consists of two specially trained EMTs and a Mental Health Clinician (MHC) from Health + Hospitals. The BHEARD team is working towards an improved response model based on EMS requirements and feedback from past experiences. They have proposed changing the REMAC staffing standards for the interim B-HEARD Program. The proposal is to send one specialty trained EMT supervisor and one mental health clinician in a non-transporting vehicle to respond to non-violent psychiatric emergencies.

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Marie Diglio conducted a roll call vote, and the results were 21 Approved, 0 Opposed, and 0 Abstentions. The motion carried.

The next Protocol Committee meeting is on November 3, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom.

QI Report (Michael Redlener, MD, Chair)

Joseph Raneri reported that the QI Committee met on October 4, 2023. The following is a summary:

- Representatives from the New York-Presbyterian Hospital EMS Stroke Unit presented an update about their program. The program, funded through philanthropic donations, is participating in multiple national and worldwide studies to demonstrate the efficacy of stroke units. One of the presentation's highlights was the units' ability to save an average of 30 minutes from the last known well to TPA administration. Once the committee receives authorization from NY-Presbyterian to share it, a copy of the presentation will be sent for REMAC's review.
- The course sponsor Staten Island EMT applied for approval to provide Paramedic refresher training in the region. The committee is reviewing the application.
- The committee has one pending regional restriction case and the necessary documentation. However, the Paramedic has not responded to the committee's attempts to schedule a meeting.
- The QI Committee is developing two QA projects on advanced airways and pain management. Regional data is being collected to populate the projects.
- The rollout of the FirstWatch Dashboard is currently in progress. Agencies that have updated their contacts should have received access to the dashboard and a unique key code to identify their agency. Although many agencies have responded, the committee is still waiting for updated data from some agencies.

The next QI Committee meeting is on November 1, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Training & Education (Mordy Lax, Chair)

There was no report.

The next Training & Education Committee meeting is on November 3, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. via Microsoft Teams.

TAGs

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Interfacility TAG

There was no report.

Regional Trauma Center Advisory Committee (RTAC) (Arthur Cooper, MD)

There was no report.

REMSCO Update (Yedidiah Langsam, Chair REMSCO)

There was no report.

The next meeting will be on November 28, 2023, at 475 Riverside Drive, New York, New York.

SEMASC/SEMSCO (Lewis Marshall, MD, JD)

Jeffrey Rabrich, MD, reported that SEMASC/SEMSCO met on September 12, 2023, and September 13, 2023. The following is a summary:

- The Vital Signs 2023 Conference is in Syracuse this week (Oct 17-22). Register at www.vitalsignsconference.com or in person at the event.
- The Quality Metrics Committee has published its revised Quality Improvement Manual. It is available for review at www.health.ny.gov/professionals/ems/pdf/quality_improvement_for_prehospital_providers.pdf.
- The Finance Committee released the results of their salary survey. The NYS DOH received 3,831 survey responses, representing more than 10% of active NYS EMS responders. Highlights of the survey include:
 - 37% of respondents plan to leave EMS in the next five years due to inadequate pay/benefits (65.7%) and better job opportunities outside EMS (51.3%).
 - 45% of EMTs earn \$19/hr. or less, and 76% earn \$24/hr. or less.
 - 35% of Paramedics earn \$29/hr. or less, and 61% earn \$34/hr. or less.
 - 73% work more than 40 hours/week, 37% work > 50 hours/week, and 17.7% work 61 or more hours per week.
 - 85% percent have experienced burnout or compassion fatigue.

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- The Finance and Training & Education Committees surveyed the course sponsors to gather funding recommendations for the Bureau. As a result, EMS course funding has increased twice this year. Funding for EMT-Original courses increased by 38%, and funding for AEMT-Original courses increased by 80%. In addition, a new funding pilot program was introduced to reimburse EMT students who paid for their course and completed 12 months of service with an EMS agency. For more details, please refer to updates 23-08.B and 23-09.B, available at www.health.ny.gov/professionals/ems/policy
- The Legislative Committee recommends modernizing the EMS definition to include treatment in place, transport to alternate destinations, and making EMS an essential service.
- The Systems Committee released a Trauma Triage Guidelines resource that regions can customize to their systems. More information is available at <https://saratogaems.org/?p=2024>
- Certificate of Need (CON) actions for Scarsdale, Ossining, and Alden Village and Town were postponed until December.
- There is an ongoing discussion about regional credentialing of EMS providers. SEMAC/SEMSCO made a motion allowing REMSCOs to credential EMS providers, but the State Division of Legal Affairs (DLA) deemed it unlawful.
- The Public Health and Health Planning Council (PHHPC) has met multiple times to discuss emergency department boarding and ambulance wait times.
- Representatives of the New York State (NYS) Office of Mental Health (OMH) and Office of Addiction Services and Supports (OASAS) presented information about crisis stabilization centers. More information can be found at <https://omh.ny.gov/omhweb/rfp/2022/scsc/>.

The next SEMAC/SEMSCO meeting will be on December 5, 2023, and December 6, 2023, in Troy, New York.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

Vaccinations

During the COVID-19 pandemic, REMAC developed a training program that allowed paramedics to administer vaccinations. This program was based on an executive order issued by the governor of New York, which authorized paramedics in the community paramedicine program to provide vaccinations for non-emergencies after receiving proper training. The New York State Department of Health also created a training program for this purpose and mandated

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providers to participate. However, once the executive order was rescinded, Paramedics were no longer authorized to administer vaccinations. As a result, EMS agencies cannot offer vaccinations when they want to vaccinate their providers or conduct community outreach.

Nick Alexandrou, MD, motioned to allow all Paramedics to provide routine, regionally approved vaccinations exclusive of Executive Order or Community Paramedic Level Training. Glenn Asaeda, MD, seconded the motion.

Marie Diglio conducted a roll call vote, and the results were 21 Approved, 0 Opposed, and 1 Abstention. The motion carried.

A clarification during the meeting emphasized that the motion applies to Paramedics who received specific training to administer vaccinations.

Smart Glass Study

Mount Sinai and Pace University are conducting a Smart Glass Study and are recruiting EMS physicians to provide medical direction. This study is part of a larger research effort to design, develop, and evaluate smart glasses technologies to support EMS operations in the field. Physicians can report to two locations to volunteer approximately one hour for the study to observe and provide feedback on the outcomes in simulated patients from Paramedics receiving medical direction by traditional radio, phone contact, or Google Glasses. The glasses allow the physician to see the patient remotely. A link for signup will be provided after the meeting.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m. and seconded. The next REMAC meeting will be on November 14, 2023, at 5 p.m. at 475 Riverside Drive, New York, New York.