

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

NYC Regional Emergency Medical Advisory Committee (REMAC) Meeting Minutes November 21, 2023

The REMAC Meeting was on November 21, 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
Pamela Lai, MD (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)	x
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)	x
On-Line Medical Control Physicians (2)	
Lewis Marshall, MD, J.D. (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)	
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)	x
NYS Volunteer Ambulance & Rescue Association/District 4 & 18	
Ambulance Service Medical Director (1)	

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Joseph Bove, MD (bovejoseph933@gmail.com)	x
Emergency Medical Technicians (Basic/Paramedic) (2)	
Sean Graves, EMT	x
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)	
New York City Police Department Physician	
Edward Jarvis, MD (jarvise@me.com) Alternate: Nicholas Vaccari, MD (nv104md@gmail.com)	
New York City Health & Hospitals Physician	
Marc Kanter, MD (marckanter@gmail.com) 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 (kessler@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 R.N. Seat	
Emergency Department Administrators*/Physicians (2)	
Kevin Munjal, MD (kevin.munjal@gmail.com)	x
Cindy Baseluos, MD (cbaseluos@rumcsi.org)	
Psychiatric Emergency Medicine Physician	
Vacant Physician Seat	
Pediatric Emergency Medicine Physician	
Matthew Harris, MD (MHarris13@northwell.edu)	
Paramedic Program Medical Director	
Non-Municipal (1)	
Jessica van Voorhees, MD (jbvanvoorhees@me.com)	x
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) Alternate: Jonathan Berkowitz, MD (jberkowitz3@northwell.edu)	x
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)	
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
- John Vega, MD, Jamaica Hospital
- Maria Mulligan-Buckmiller, MD, Bellevue & NYU Langone

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 5:15 P.M. Michelle Klemm conducted a roll call attendance, and a quorum was present. The committee approved the Minutes of the October 17, 2023 meeting.

Joseph Schenker, MD, emphasized the need to attend committee meetings regularly. The committee will review attendance records to determine membership status.

CORRESPONDENCE REPORT

The Offices of the Council received the following correspondence:

- Membership:
 - The following members sent excusal requests: Bradley Kaufman, MD; Robert J. Winchell, MD; Yedidiah Langsam; Annemarie Girgenti, EMTP; and Peter Wyer, MD.

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- FDNY EMS:
 - None

- NYS DOH Bureau of Emergency Medical Services and Trauma Systems:
 - None
 - NYS DOH Enforcements:
 - 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:
 - None

- CME/Training:

The following events were received and distributed:

 - New York Presbyterian Queens and Bayside Glen Oaks will host "Call Review Penetrating Neck Trauma" on November 15, 2023, from 7:00 P.M.-9:00 P.M. To RSVP and for more information, visit www.glenoaksvac.org/cme.
 - The Maimonides EMS Division will be hosting the 2nd Annual All NYC EMS Journal Club at Fraunces Tavern on December 19, 2023, at 7 P.M. The discussion will be based on the clinical paper "A retrospective comparison of the King Laryngeal Tube and iGel supraglottic airway devices: A study for the CARES surveillance group" by Tanner Smida et al. All residents, attendings, and EMS providers are welcome to attend.
 - The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai hosted a "Grand Rounds: Magen David Adom and Operations Iron Swords: A Medical Response" on November 7, 2023, at 11:00 A.M.

- Other:
 - An email was received from Yehuda Lowenthal requesting clarification about the unit dosage of DuoNeb in the proposed protocols that were sent out for Public Notice. Patients will receive a full dose of Ipratropium Bromide regardless of age.
 - Mount Sinai and Pace University are conducting an EMS Smart Glass Study. To register for the online medical control part, please visit <https://doodle.com/meeting/participate/id/axl23XJa>.

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- The Blanket Special Edition featuring a NYSVARA 2023 Annual Meeting & Pulse Check Recap was received from the New York State Volunteer Ambulance & Rescue Association, Inc. (NYSVARA).
- National First Responders Day 2023, Honoring the Contributions of our Country's First Responders, was held on October 28, 2023. National First Responders Day was first approved by the U.S. Senate in 2017 and received bipartisan resolution in the U.S. House in 2019. The goal of this day, every October 28, is to show appreciation for the collective efforts of all public safety professionals. An email was received from EMS.gov's Office of EMS, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, and Department of Transportation, acknowledging the hard work of providers and showing them appreciation.
- A funeral announcement and arrangements for Pete Bojmal of Flatlands Volunteer Ambulance Corps. were received from NYSVARA. His funeral was held on October 31, 2023.
- An email was received from Lauryn Kosturko, D.O., informing Medical Standards and REMAC of NYU Langone's newest EMS Medical Director, Michelle Safferman. Dr. Safferman did her E.M. residency at Mount Sinai Morningside-West and completed an EMS Fellowship at the University of California San Diego.

The Office of the Council sent the following correspondence:

- Agendas, Minutes, and associated attachments for the meeting.
- NYC REMAC Public Notice Proposed Revisions Prehospital Treatment Protocols for the following protocols:
 - Anaphylaxis/Severe Allergic Reaction (Adult and Pediatric)
 - Asthma/COPD/Wheezing (Adult and Pediatric)
 - Emergency Childbirth
 - Vaccine Administration (Adult and Pediatric)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Dr. Josef Schenker reported that the Executive Committee did not meet. However, there was an email discussion about the statewide iGel Basic Life Support (BLS) Pilot Project being conducted by the Hudson Valley region, which aims to assess the feasibility of Emergency Medical Technicians' use of iGel supraglottic airway devices to treat patients who experience cardiac arrest. In our region, Jamaica and Flushing hospitals were approved to participate in the study by the Regional Council and the NYS Department of Health. However, REMAC did not review the project. Due to regional objections and concerns, Jamaica and Flushing Hospital postponed their operation until they could receive additional guidance from REMAC. The members of the email discussion proposed the creation of an advisory to inform the region and outline the necessary steps for Paramedics to manage iGel in the field that BLS providers started.

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During the meeting, Nathan Reisman, MD, motioned "to support this project with the stipulation that an agency present it to the REMAC, and an advisory be issued." Joseph Bove, MD, seconded this motion.

Michelle Klemm conducted a roll call vote, and the results were 12 approved, 5 opposed, and 1 abstention. Although the motion was carried, it was reported that it did not pass.

The QA Committee will review the iGel Pilot Project and the QA requirements to develop an advisory that the Executive Committee will send out before the January REMAC meeting.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Paul Barbara, MD, reported that the Certification & Credentialing Committee met on November 16, 2023. The following is a summary:

- The committee is standardizing NYC REMAC Paramedic extensions. Providers will have to submit formal documentation and receive executive approval. Extensions for military leave, medical issues, and family needs will be granted. The committee will develop formal language and present it to REMAC.
- The Certification & Credentialing Committee is collaborating with the Training & Education Committee to create content for the annual updates based on earlier exams and topics.
- An OLMC Pathway is being created on the LMS to credential OLMC Physicians. The pathway streamlines the procedures rather than the education and content.
- New York State created a Credentialing Committee to examine regional credentialing. Paul Barbara, MD, Chair, encouraged attendance by REMAC members. The next virtual meeting will be held on November 27, 2023, at 2 P.M. For more information, contact Paul Barbara, MD.

The next Certification & Credentialing Committee meeting is on January 5, 2024, at 10 A.M. via Microsoft Teams.

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

David Ben-Eli, MD, reported that Medical Standards met on November 14, 2023. He said that a protocol is being forwarded to REMAC for voting. Pamela Lai, MD, presented the protocol for review in the Protocol Committee report.

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The next Medical Standards Committee meeting is on January 9, 2024, at 3:00 P.M. via Zoom.

Protocol Committee (Pamela Lai, MD, Chair)

Pamela Lai, MD, reported that the Protocol Committee met on November 3, 2023. The following is a summary:

- Medical Standards brought forward a seconded motion to REMAC to accept revisions to the **"Head, Neck and Spine Injuries (Adult and Pediatric)"** protocol. One of the proposed changes is to replace the term "spinal precautions" with "spinal motion restrictions." Additionally, the proposal includes moving spinal restriction from the EMT section to the CFR section, defining the circumstances under which a nasopharyngeal airway should not be used for traumatic injuries, and specifying the situations where a cervical collar should not be used for penetrating trauma.

The language changes from "Spinal precautions" to "spinal motion restriction" must also be changed in the General Operating Procedures, other protocols, and the Appendix.

Michelle Klemm conducted a roll call vote, and the results were 19 approved, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions. The motion carried.

The next Protocol Committee meeting is on December 15, 2023, at 10:00 A.M. via Zoom.

QI Report (Michael Redlener, MD, Chair)

Joseph Raneri reported that the Q.I. Committee met on November 1, 2023. The following is a summary:

- The Quality Improvement Committee has received the latest updates on the ongoing projects.
- The implementation of the FirstWatch Dashboard is currently underway. Agencies that have updated their contact information should have already received access to the dashboard and a unique key code to identify their agency. While most agencies have responded, the committee is still awaiting updated data from some agencies.
- The committee has received the necessary documentation for a regional restriction case and is scheduling a meeting to review and decide on further action.
- A sponsor requested approval to upgrade their training level in the region. The committee is reviewing the application and seeking clarification from the NYS DOH regarding the requirements.

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- The Quality Improvement (Q.I.) The Committee is creating Quality Assurance (Q.A.) project reports regarding advanced airway techniques and pain management.

The next Q.I. Committee meeting is on December 6, 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 December 15, 2023, at 1:00 P.M. via Microsoft Teams.

TAGs

Interfacility TAG

Dr. Berkowitz reported that the TAG has not met. He would like to survey providers to identify issues with interfacility transport and develop a plan to rectify them.

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

There was no report.

REMSCO Update (Yedidiah Langsam, Chair REMSCO)

There was no report. A Public Hearing for the Expansion of Bedford-Stuyvesant Volunteer Ambulance Corps, Inc. was held instead of the meeting.

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

SEMAC/SEMSCO (Lewis Marshall, MD, J.D.)

There was no report.

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

REMAC Officer Elections

Josef Schenker, MD, reported that no additional nominations were received for the REMAC officer elections. Therefore, the REMAC Committee recommends the following seats for re-appointment beginning July 1, 2023.

- Josef Schenker, MD, REMAC Committee Chairperson
- Jeffrey Rabrich, MD, REMAC Committee 1st Vice Chairperson
- Bradley Kaufman, MD, REMAC Committee 2nd Vice Chairperson

The term is two (2) years, ending June 30, 2025.

A vote was conducted, and the motion was approved unanimously.

The following subcommittee chairs will be reappointed:

- David Ben-Eli, MD, Chairperson of Medical Standards
- Paul Barbara, MD, Vice Chairperson of Medical Standards & Chairperson of the Certification & Credentialing Committee
- Pamela Lai, MD, Chairperson of the Protocol Committee
- Michael Redlener, MD, Chairperson of the Quality Improvement Committee

Stroke Diversions

Jonathan Berkowitz, MD, informed the committee about research studies on the outcomes of stroke diversions in the Iberian Peninsula, which indicated harm to patients. Dr. Berkowitz will distribute the papers to REMAC for review. Arthur Cooper, MD, said the articles should also be forwarded to Dr. Doynow at SEMAC for review.

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Michael Redlener, MD, announced that the Stroke Systems of Care Committee has not met but is initiating the Stroke Systems of Care triage plan and process. During the next REMAC meeting, Dr. David Ben-Eli and FDNY EMS representatives will present new data regarding initiatives in New York City.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 P.M. and seconded. The next REMAC meeting will be on January 23, 2024, at 5 P.M. at 475 Riverside Drive, New York, New York.

Approved