

1. In a sign of the times, SEMSCO and SEMAC meetings were held virtually January 12-13, 2021 using the wondrous NYS Office of Technology Services WebEx platform. Despite most meetings since last Spring having gone virtual, some participants seemed challenged with connecting, muting themselves when not speaking, and using video (required by NYS for public meetings). If you care to watch, you can see for yourself at www.health.ny.gov/events/webcasts/archive/. It was, nonetheless, a productive couple of days.
2. Med Standards and SEMAC approved updates and changes to the Collaborative Protocols to include allowing substituting different concentrations of liquid acetaminophen, addition of TXA to the trauma and postpartum hemorrhage protocols, O negative blood for traumatic hemorrhage, self-administered isopropyl alcohol for nausea, nasal capnography for sedated excited delirium patients (when feasible), a new epistaxis protocol with topical decongestant spray, revised airway protocols to match 2020 AHA guidelines targeting $SpO_2 \geq 92\%$, and requiring viral filters on all advanced airways. Watch for these to roll out eventually. Maybe the Easter Bunny will bring them.
3. Lengthy discussions occurred on a Hudson Valley Region proposed SGA pilot for EMTs. Ultimately, the pilot (which still needs authorization from the Health Commissioner) was approved statewide with the Hudson Valley Region serving as a data collection hub. In the study, iGel supraglottic airways would be placed by trained EMTs in cardiac arrest patients, using continuous waveform capnography and verification by an ALS provider or physician along with tight QA/QI oversight. T&E noted that SGA use falls outside the EMT scope of practice, but potential benefits warrant a trial; the outcomes may influence changes in national scope of practice. A similar study approved previously in Suffolk never got off the ground.
4. NY AEMT training was to comply with National Standards, effective January 1, 2021. The North Country Regional EMS asked SEMSCO to postpone the change because of the pandemic. At the recommendation of Training and Ed, SEMSCO approved delaying the AEMT curriculum migration until such time as the Bureau of EMS can update curriculum, protocols and exams.
5. The Pandemic Triage Protocol came under small arms fire following a request it be suspended or revised to require on-line medical control for each use. Neither went over well and ultimately, review of the protocol and its use was assigned to a workgroup.
6. The Bureau advised Training & Ed that computerized testing is running more smoothly. Candidates testing after 8/24/2020 will be given 3 attempts to pass the exam; those prior to 8/24 got 2 attempts. Scores are now posted daily for Course Sponsors (except weekends, of course). Excel sheets submitted with Student Applications have a high incidence of erroneous student emails, leading to students not being notified of their computer exam eligibility. Sponsor renewals due June 2020 have been extended until May 2021. The planned migration of CME paperwork submission to an on-line portal has been delayed due to the pandemic; it's coming eventually. Instructor certs are slowly being distributed. The Bureau is happy to announce that they have a new EMS certification card capable of making through the laundry once or twice; look for these to roll out soon. An eCard would be even better but don't hold your breath on that one. National Registry exams have been optional as an initial certification exam for all levels since Spring 2020 and remain so. The Bureau will shortly designate the NREMT exam as the sole test for initial certification of

Paramedics; recerts can use CME or take the NYS exam.

7. The BLS Practical Skills Exam (PSE) was consolidated to 3 stations to facilitate administration during COVID. During Q1 of this year, it will transition to a scenario based exam. The Paramedic PSE is now a National Registry PSE.
8. EMTs and AEMTs have been approved to administer flu and COVID vaccines by both SEMAC and the Governor. The required training is available at [Vital Signs Academy](#). Even if you don't want to give out shots, it's a decent 1.5 hour CME. Have a look around if you've never been there; their [calendar](#) offers free CME four times a week.
9. As promised, the Bureau will roll out a freebie ePCR portal for agencies who can't afford their own. The CME program requires use of ePCRs by January 2022 and the free portal, provided through ImageTrend, the State's ePCR data consolidator, will allow smaller departments to electronically enter PCRs. Freebie options will include uploading scans of paper PCRs (keying in a few essential fields) or completing the entire PCR on a web-based platform. There will be optional "pay to play" add-ins from the vendor. Expected rollout is February 2nd (of this year, supposedly). If you have burning questions, emsdata@health.ny.gov is the contact email.
10. After many years of work, proposed revisions to Part 800.24 and 800.26 (equipment requirements for ambulances and emergency ambulance service vehicles) emerged from the Safety Committee and was approved by SEMSCO. It now has to run through the State Regulatory process for public comment. As this may be the most exciting update this century in NYS EMS equipment, I have posted a copy of the draft for your perusal at https://mcusercontent.com/7c2f58ae71dcfe7266460ffc2/files/1e9a6a9b-75ba-46fc-86a3-e0bf53390be3/2021_01_12_v5_Part_800_Proposed_Vehicle_Equipment.pdf. Have a look and get ready to toss those sanitary napkins and padded board splints!
11. A 20% "holdback" in NYS reimbursements to Course Sponsors, Regional Councils and Program Agencies has raised more than a few eyebrows. Predicated on expected major NYS Budget shortfalls, the cuts have resulted in layoffs, program reductions, drawing on credit lines across the EMS spectrum. No word on if or when the held back monies might be paid but it may follow legalization of cannabis. Just sayin'.
12. The CCT Bridge program at Northwell Health continues to graduate paramedics. See [www.learnemt.org/cc to Medic bridge.php](http://www.learnemt.org/cc_to_Medic_bridge.php). There was some discussion on when CCT level certification might sunset. While no end date exists, Director Greenberg speculated that it would likely be within 10 years' time and should be established soon.
13. EMSC welcomes Amy Eisenhauer as their new leader. Purportedly, the National EMS for Children folks in Utah sent a pedi survey to all NYS EMS services. Virtually none saw the actual survey. In case you are among the missed, www.emscsurveys.org will take you to where you need to be. Do it for the children!
14. Vital Signs will come to Saratoga this year, if COVID is run out of town in time. Mark November 11-14 on your calendar and keep your eye on www.vitalsignsconference.com.
15. SEMSCO will meet again in 2021 but dates have yet to be set. The Bureau is targeting end April or beginning May. Meetings will likely remain virtual.

These notes respectfully prepared by Mike McEvoy who serves on SEMSCO representing the NYS Association of Fire Chiefs. Contact Mike McEvoy at mmcevoy@saratogacountyny.gov. If you want a personal copy of these "unofficial" SEMSCO minutes delivered directly to your email account, go to <http://eepurl.com/iaXHY> to put yourself on the list (or adjust your delivery settings). Also, past copies of NYS EMS News are parked at the bottom of the EMS News page at www.saratogaems.org. Feel free to download any notes you missed. Tell your friends. The more, the merrier.

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