



RECOMMENDATION FOR CONSIDERATION

Board Meeting Date: October 16, 2013

Subject: Influenza Patient Screening Tool

VTR#: 1013-01

Committee/Task Force: Medical Advisory

Recommended Goal

Recommended Policy Change

Other:

Recommendation:

The Pennsylvania Department of Health should publish, or make available for publication, the attached influenza patient screening tool.

Rationale [Background]:

EMS practitioners frequently encounter patients exhibiting flu-like symptoms. This screening tool can be reproduced in various forms, e.g. a placard or poster, to serve as a reminder to practitioners to ask appropriate screening questions as part of their assessment. Should their assessment yield information consistent with possible influenza, the tool provides additional information related to universal precautions and reporting recommendations.

The screening tool concept was submitted to PEHSC by the PA Eastern EMS Council, where it was originally drafted by a regional task force. The regional council suggested the PEHSC MAC consider it for statewide use.

Medical Review [Concerns]:

The MAC reviewed the original draft and made a few minor wording changes so the questions contained in the tool are more consistent with those asked during an emergency department screening.

Fiscal Concerns:

The costs associated with reproducing the screening tool will vary according to form and quantity.

Educational Concerns:

N/A

Plan of Implementation:

Distribution could be statewide or made available to the regional EMS councils as a regional initiative.

The PEHSC MAC offers consultation to the Department in regard to the content of this Vote to Recommend (VTR) and its attached documents. The PEHSC MAC specifically offers staff or member support to participate in Department deliberations regarding this recommendation in an effort to convey committee/task force discussions.

Board Meeting Comments/Concerns:

There was a post-meeting question from a board member regarding the current PPE requirements for EMS agencies related to face masks. Specifically, does the requirement specify an N95 mask or is a surgical-type mask an acceptable alternative. Upon review of the current list of required equipment and supplies for ambulances [41 Pa.B. 2296 Saturday, April 30, 2011], we note that line 48 specifies, "Fit-tested disposable N95 respirator (1 per crew member)."

Signed: David Jones Date 10-16-13
President JAS

For PEHSC Use Only – PA Department of Health Response

Accept: _____ Table: _____ Modify: _____ Reject: _____

Comments:

Date of Department Response: _____

Early Identification of Influenza...

EMS Practitioners, please ask your patients the following questions:

- Have you had flu-like symptoms such as headache, chills, fever, cough, body aches, fatigue or nausea/vomiting?
- Have you traveled outside the U.S. within the last 10 days?
- Have you had any contact with someone who has been suspected of having flu-like symptoms within the last 10 days?

If “yes” to any of the previous questions:

1. EMS Practitioners caring for suspected influenza patients should IMMEDIATELY apply an N-95 respirator, eye protection, gown and gloves.
2. Upon arrival at the receiving healthcare facility, provide staff with your findings and clinical interventions.



PA EMS

