



Southern Tier Regional Emergency Medical Advisory Committee

Serving Chemung, Schuylar and Steuben Counties

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March 5, 2018

To All Southern Tier Regional BLS Agencies:

From: Southern Tier Regional Emergency Medical Advisory Committee (STREMAC)

Re: Completion of PCRs

Dear BLS Agencies and providers,

At the last STREMAC meeting, we discussed the importance of all providers completing Patient Care Reports (PCRs). While it is not a requirement for nontransporting BLS providers to complete PCRs, we would strongly encourage them to do so.

Accurate and timely completion of a PCR helps to ensure the best possible patient care. A clear written record of who did what, and when it was done provides physicians and nurses a better understanding of what happened to the patient prior to arrival at the hospital. It may also provide a clearer picture of how the patient was found, the state of their house, and other initial impressions of the first providers to have contact with the patient. Unfortunately, such details can be lost in a series of verbal sign-outs and there is simply not enough space on the "short form" to document this key information.

Additionally, completing a PCR provides a layer of protection for the initial providers. A written record of the care you rendered is your best defense against allegations of negligence and malpractice. Having to rely on hazy remembered details and the written documentation of downstream providers, months or years after an event occurred is less than ideal.

As a reminder, a copy of your documentation should accompany the patient to the hospital (or be forwarded to the hospital if it is not immediately completed). Your agency should also keep a copy of all documentation on file.

While we cannot require you to complete PCRs for all of your patient encounters, we recommend that you do so, for the good of your patients and for your own protection.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions. Thank you for all that you do in the service of our patients.

Dylan S Kellogg, MD
Chair, Southern Tier REMAC