



Regional Emergency Medical Organization

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REMAC ADVISORY 2010 – 01

Effective Date: January 31, 2010

Re: Prehospital Blood Draws – EMS Will No Longer Draw Bloods for the ED*

Background: Prehospital blood draws have been done for a long time in the Region, but they will be discontinued. These blood tubes provide potential risk to patients and hospitals by inadequate labeling according to Joint Commission requirements, as well as potential quality concerns for facilities.

This decision has been reached by the Restocking Group of the REMAC, made up of physicians, nursing, compliance experts and hospital management from each of the Regional Hospitals and has been affirmed by the Medical Advisory Committee.

Action: As of 1/31/10 EMS Providers will no longer draw labs as part of an IV start. Hospitals will not restock blood tubes and should not accept EMS drawn bloods. Agencies may cease blood draws at an earlier date if they choose.

*The one exception will be administration of CyanoKit. If possible, blood draw should be done prior to administration of the medication. Appropriate tubes and labels will be packaged with the medication. Agencies carrying this medication must contact REMO for appropriate materials.