



Central New York Regional Emergency Medical Services Program

Policy Statement

Serving: Cayuga, Cortland, Onondaga, Oswego and Tompkins Counties

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Subject:
Rapid Sequence Induction
Program

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Supersedes/Updates: Original

Policy

The Central New York Emergency Medical Services (CNYEMS) Rapid Sequence Induction Program (RSI Program) provides advanced airway capabilities, specifically rapid sequence induction and intubation, to properly identified patients potentially requiring such definitive airway management.

1. Objectives

1. Define the participants of the RSI Program.
2. Define a system of initial credentialing and annual re-credentialing to assure that EMS providers have the highest level of airway competency recognized by the available literature.
3. Outline a continuing education program designed to assure continuous skills review and testing for maintaining provider credentialing and skill level.
4. Delineate the process by which an RSI-credentialed provider and agency respond to requests for an RSI-Paramedic.
5. Identify the process by which continuous quality assurance of the RSI program will be maintained.

2. Overview

Rapid Sequence Induction has been used in the hospital setting for years to help provide the highest possible intubation success rate for patients undergoing emergent intubation. Its use in the pre-hospital setting has been the subject of significant research and this program is established after a review of the medical literature and best practices existing in other parts of the country. The Rapid Sequence Induction Program (RSI Program) exists to provide RSI services to CNYEMS in a careful, safe, and controlled fashion. *It is important to recognize that the successful performance of an RSI procedure does not imply appropriateness of the procedure.*

3. Authorization

The program is authorized by CNYEMS REMAC and overseen by the Regional Medical Director, and REMAC. As such, the RSI Program is a **regional**

program, not one implemented at the agency level.

Individuals and agencies provide RSI as an added service under the oversight of the REMAC and the Regional Medical Director. Failure to follow these regulations will lead to the penalties described in this policy, including revocation of RSI credentials for the paramedic and/or the agency.

4. Medical Care

This policy specifically addresses the objectives stated previously. It does not define the manner in which the RSI procedure is performed. The "RSI Protocol", as defined in the CNYEMS Advanced Life Support Protocols, shall be the sole authority on how such a procedure is performed in the pre-hospital setting. Both the RSI Protocol and RSI Policy and Procedure here are to be used ONLY by individuals credentialed as an RSI-Paramedic while working for an RSI authorized agency. They are not to be used for routine Advanced Life Support care.

5. Credentialing Requirements

A. RSI Agency

An RSI Agency is one that maintains the following criteria:

1. Has unrestricted authorization from the NY State Department of Health and the CNYEMS REMAC to provide Advanced Life Support care.
2. Has unrestricted authorization from the NY State Department of Health to carry and administer controlled substances to patients.
3. Has agreed to abide by the RSI Protocol and the RSI Policies and Procedures approved by the CNYEMS REMAC, including agreeing to provide the RSI Paramedic the proper medications and equipment as detailed in the Protocol and following all QA requirements as detailed in this Policy.
4. Has agreed to make RSI Paramedics available to all EMS agencies in the region when RSI skills may be required.
5. Has been approved by the CNYEMS REMAC to provide RSI.

Participating in the RSI Program is equivalent to agreeing to these criteria.

B. RSI Paramedic

An RSI Paramedic is an individual who is credentialed to provide RSI services to patients in the CNYEMS EMS Region. The following credentialing and re-credentialing process occurs at the level of the CNYEMS Region. RSI Agencies can and are encouraged to create their own clearance process for RSI Paramedics. However, no paramedics can provide RSI services at any agency if they are not credentialed at the regional level. To act as an RSI Paramedic, the individual must practice with an agency authorized to provide RSI care. *Thus, an RSI Paramedic practicing with an agency that does not provide RSI services cannot perform RSI on a patient.*

The RSI Paramedic or RSI Agency is responsible for any costs required for maintaining their credentialing.

C. Credentialing Process

1. Initial Credentialing

All new providers for RSI must complete a Paramedic Rapid Sequence Induction Airway Class.

To apply for the training, the following minimum requirements must be met:

1. Actively practice as a paramedic for a minimum of four years (by the completion of the RSI course) and two years in the CNYEMS Region;
2. Be in good standing with REMAC;
3. Have a letter of recommendation from the Agency Director or Manager;
4. Have a letter of support from the Agency Medical Director;
5. Have a current NY State Paramedic certification;
6. Have a current ACLS certification;
7. Complete the class application.

All applicants for the training will be reviewed by the Regional Medical Director and REMAC. Prior experience with demonstrated competency in endotracheal intubation will be considered. Those who are invited for the training class must then pass a pre-test developed by the REMAC and available through the CNYEMS Program Agency. Those individuals unable to pass the pre-test cannot sit for the training.

Those providers who successfully complete the training and its requirements will be credentialed to provide RSI services for one year.

2. Maintenance of Credentials

RSI Paramedics must meet the following criteria at all times:

1. Have current NY State Paramedic certification;
2. Have current ACLS certification;
3. Be in good standing with REMAC;
4. Have the support of the RSI Agency Director or Manager and Agency Medical Director.

Failure to meet any of these criteria at any time immediately suspends the RSI Paramedic's credentials to provide RSI services to the community. This change must immediately (within one business day) be reported in writing to the RSI Agency Director or Manager, the Agency Medical Director, and the CNYEMS Program Agency.

3. Re-Credentialing

All RSI Paramedics must re-credential on an annual basis through a mandatory continuing education program. This process occurs at the regional level and is self-sustaining, with fees as necessary. All RSI Credentials expire December 31 of each year.

By September 1 of each year, re-credentialing applications must be submitted to the CNYEMS Program Agency. The application confirms the requirements for all RSI Paramedics, documents RSI activity during the past year, and confirms that all continuing education requirements have been met. Continued participation in the RSI program may be contingent upon endotracheal intubation experience with documented competency. The RSI Paramedic is encouraged to submit education and activity performed as part of the RSI Program, CNYEMS ALS activity, and other pertinent activity. The following minimum requirements must be met to apply for re-credentialing:

1. Have current NY State Paramedic certification;
2. Be in good standing with REMAC;
3. Have a letter of recommendation from the RSI Agency Director or Manager;
4. Have a letter of support from the Agency Medical Director;
5. Have current ACLS certification;
6. Have successfully completed 8 hours of RSI continuing education sponsored through the CNYEMS Program Agency in the last 12 months.

