



McLean County Area EMS System

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MEMORANDUM

TO: McLean County Area EMS Providers

FROM: Cathy Belcher
EMS Quality Assurance Coordinator

DATE: September 19, 2006

SUBJECT: Quality Issues

As Quality Assurance Coordinator, I review EMS calls on a regular basis. There are a few issues I am finding that just need a reminder to the EMTs.

The first one is that all patients need to have a full set of vitals done. All patients that are transported need to have a minimum of 2 sets of vitals taken. This needs to be done regardless of age or condition of the patient. I am finding quite frequently that only one set is done or that they have not taken a blood pressure on the patient. This will be an area that will be watched closely with the chart reviews. I do know that it is frequently hard to hear blood pressures in the ambulance and that palpated blood pressures are done, but please attempt a complete blood pressure prior to loading the patient if possible.

The other issue is that there has been an increase in needlestick injuries. We all know the safety precautions, but it seems as if something is causing this increase. Just please be more aware of where your sharp is at all times and dispose of them properly.

If you have any concerns or questions, please let me know.