




EMS Information Bulletin 2018-01

DATE: Jan. 12, 2018

SUBJECT: modified Rapid Arterial Occlusion Evaluation (mRACE) educational program

TO: Regional EMS Councils
PA EMS Agencies & Providers

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Commonwealth EMS Medical Director

In an effort to improve the assessment and care for stroke patients with large vessel occlusion (LVO) in the prehospital setting across the state, the Pennsylvania Department of Health, Bureau of Emergency Medical Services recently included the modified Rapid Arterial Occlusion Evaluation (mRACE) scale as an optional assessment tool in the Statewide Advanced Life Support (ALS) EMS Protocols. The use of mRACE assessment by ALS EMS providers was piloted in Southwestern Pennsylvania before incorporating it in the Statewide ALS Protocols. It has a reasonable sensitivity and specificity for the identification of LVO.

The EMS agency medical director must be involved in the decision to incorporate this assessment skill into the practice of ALS providers within the agency and must oversee the education of the ALS providers. If an agency (or larger system, e.g. EMS region) chooses to use this additional assessment tool, the EMS agency should ensure that all ALS providers are trained and competent in performing mRACE assessment, and the agency/regional EMS medical director should liaison with local medical command facilities to ensure that medical command physicians understand the scale and the capabilities of regional stroke centers of varying levels.

An mRACE educational program, intended for presentation to ALS providers within EMS agencies/systems that have adopted the optional use of mRACE, has been created. This module, which requires both didactic and face-to-face skills practice, provides instruction to better detect large vessel occlusion, and to direct stroke patients to an appropriate level stroke center. Continuing education course # 009722 has been assigned to this program, and is approved for 1.5 hours of continuing education credit.

Some aspects of the neurologic exam skills within the mRACE, are new to providers, therefore it is important that providers have an opportunity to practice these physical assessment skills thru this new continuing education course. The mRACE assessment must be part of a regional or EMS agency plan, since medical command physicians must be involved in destination decisions when mRACE is used. To improve mRACE assessment and documentation, the Bureau of EMS (BEMS) has developed a checklist that also serves as a "transfer of care form", designed to communicate the mRACE findings and other

critical stroke information to a receiving facility. This form is a supplement to the required Transfer of Care Form that must be left at the receiving facility for every patient transported by EMS.

The BEMS mRACE is the only approved stroke assessment (beyond the required Cincinnati Stroke Scale) in the Pennsylvania Statewide EMS Protocols. EMS providers who may have already attended a didactic and face-to-face skills RACE continuing education program with their regional EMS medical director, or his or her designee, or EMS agency medical director, may submit a request for review of continuing education to the BEMS thru their regional EMS council. Each individual request, must include an attestation from the agency/regional EMS medical director, indicating the:

- Continuing education course name;
- Continuing education course number; and
- Course content including hours of instruction, presentation materials (handout of PowerPoint slides, etc), and description of face-to-face, hands-on practical and assessment of skills

All programs conducted from the date of this EMS Information Bulletin forward, must be presented by the agency/regional EMS medical director, his or her designee, utilizing course number 009722, and the electronic resources (videos, cases, and mRACE transfer of care checklist) provided to the regional EMS council, for the program.

Please contact your regional EMS council in the event of any questions or for additional information.