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HUDSON VALLEY REGIONAL
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COUNCIL, INC.
45 Academy Avenue
Cornwall-On-Hudson, NY 12520
(845) 534-2430 Phone
(845) 534-3070 Fax
hvremSCO@hvremSCO.org
www.hvremSCO.org

Date: October 10, 2008

From: William Hughes

To: All Paramedic Level Advanced Life Support Services, Paramedic
Providers, and Medical Control Hospitals in the Hudson Valley Region

RE: 2008 HVREMS ALS Protocol Manual

The Hudson Valley Regional ALS protocols have been updated to include Continuous Positive Air Pressure (CPAP) as an adjunct in both Adult Medical Protocol-3 entitled Respiratory Distress/Asthma/Bronchospasm/COPD and Adult Medical Protocol-11 entitled Acute Pulmonary Edema/Congestive Heart Failure.

Due to restrictions presented by the NYS EMS curriculum, the use of this adjunct is restricted to paramedic providers.

Please note, the use of CPAP is recommended but not mandated.

Agencies:

The EMS agency, in conjunction with the Agency Medical Director, should develop a training program to familiarize all paramedic level providers of that agency with the indications for and use of the CPAP device (to be selected by the service) as per the manufacturer's instructions and the approved 2008 Hudson Valley Regional ALS protocols.

Paramedic Providers and Medical Control Representatives:

Please review the 2008 Hudson Valley Regional ALS protocols for familiarization with the changes to the protocols and indications for use of CPAP.

A copy of the protocols is available at the Hudson Valley Regional website:
www.hvremSCO.org.

Please contact the Hudson Valley Regional EMS office with any questions in this regard.