

Memorandum

To: All EMS Agencies

Cc: All WREMAC Medical Directors
EMS Program Agencies

From: Jeffrey Myers, DO, Chairman
WREMAC

Re: Patients with suspected carbon monoxide poisoning or “the bends”

Date: December 9, 2011

Many agencies received notice from Kaleida Health Millard Fillmore Gates Hospital indicating that the Hyperbaric Medicine Program would close, effective November 30, 2011. The letter indicated that patients should be transported to University Hospital in Syracuse, NY. **The directive below shall supersede the correspondence circulated by Kaleida Health.**

The WREMAC at its November 16, 2011 meeting discussed this discontinuance of service at Millard Gates. The WREMAC is issuing the following directive to all EMS providers in the region:

DIRECTIVE:

All patients with symptoms of carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning or “the bends” from diving shall be placed on high-flow oxygen via non-rebreather. Patients should be transported as follows:

1. Patients with burns and symptoms of CO poisoning shall be transported according to the *Adult and Pediatric Trauma Triage and Transport Guidelines*.
2. Patients without burns, but with symptoms of CO poisoning or “the bends” shall be transported to the closest hospital.

I apologize for any confusion during this time of service transition.