

MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL
Middletown, Connecticut

MEMORANDUM

TO: Middlesex Hospital Paramedics, Middlesex County EMS & Fire Chiefs,
Middlesex Sponsored PSAPs

CC: Colchester Hayward Fire Department, Old Lyme EMS, Ron Kersey, EMS
Coordinator L&M Hospital, Fred Potter, EMS Coordinator Backus
Hospital, Dr. Michelle Perez, Medical Director Midstate Hospital

FROM: Dr. David Antman, EMS Medical Director
Jim Santacroce, EMS Manager

DATE: April 22, 2013

RE: **Spinal Immobilization**

On Tuesday, April 8, 2013 the North Central EMS Medical Advisory Committee, this includes Middlesex Hospital, voted to adopt the following guideline regarding spinal immobilization that will be effective May 1st, 2013 for Middlesex Sponsored services:

Patients who are ambulatory at the scene, but who require cervical immobilization based on our regional immobilization guidelines, will be placed in an appropriately sized cervical collar, seated on the ambulance stretcher, secured in a position of comfort, limiting movement of the neck during the process.

At the present time, the change in protocol involves only patients who are ambulatory, and eliminates the practice of placing a board behind a standing, collared patient and having him/her lean backward onto the board until both are horizontal.

This is for Middlesex Hospital ALS and BLS services. When the responding transport service is not under Middlesex Hospital, Region 3 or Yale Sponsor Hospital oversight (Hunters, Old Lyme, Colchester, etc) this practice will occur only when a Middlesex Paramedic is transporting with the patient.

Please communicate this to all of your members and feel free to contact us with any questions.