



DT: 1.13.2020

TO: ALL JOCO EMS SYSTEM PROVIDERS

RE: Monitoring of patients during transition to hospital

We are receiving feedback from a number of hospital systems regarding our EMS System providers discontinuing patient monitoring prematurely for patients who require monitoring.

The situations typically involve Time-Critical Diagnoses (TCD) such as Stroke, STEMI and Trauma. Hospital staff are reporting they have seen a number of patients since the Zoll monitors have been introduced come into the hospital ED/ICU/Cath lab without any monitoring (EKG, pulse ox etc.).

It is mandated that all TCD patients (or any patient who is critical ex. CPAP, respiratory failure, advanced airway) need to be continually monitored when leaving the ambulance and maintained until the hospital staff have transitioned their monitors onto the patient (or the hospital elects to discontinue). This is especially important for EKG/rhythm monitoring and ETCO2 for advanced airways.

Patients should NOT have monitoring discontinued prematurely as this may delay transitions to destinations like the Cath lab, CT scanner or ICU while the hospital attaches their equipment.

As always the decision to discontinue monitoring in the ambulance will require clinical judgement. A stable patient who does NOT have a concern for TCD may be appropriate for discontinuing, however all TCD patients and any critical patient requires continuation of monitoring until the hospital transition is complete.

As always, please feel free to reach out via email or phone for any further discussion or concerns.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ryan Jacobsen", written over a white background.

Ryan Jacobsen MD, FAEMS, FACEP  
JOCO EMS System Medical Director