



## Monroe-Livingston Region Program Agency

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*Division of Prehospital Medicine, University of Rochester*

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To: All EMS Providers and Agencies

From: Jeremy T. Cushman, MD, MS, EMT-P   
Regional Medical Director

Date: August 5, 2015

Re: Advisory 15-09: NYS DOH Traumatic Brain Injury Wallet Cards

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The New York State Department of Health Traumatic Brain Injury Prevention Program developed wallet sized informational cards that may be disseminated by EMS agencies to patients, family members, or distributed at public events. Based on the number of cards shipped to our office by the state, each EMS transporting agency and ALSFR vehicle will be provided one pack per vehicle. Each pack contains forty cards as pictured below. Additional cards may be printed by your agency using the template provided [here](#) as needed.



The wallet cards will be disseminated by the Monroe and Livingston County EMS Coordinators at their respective August leadership meetings with my thanks:

Livingston County Captain's Meeting: August 6<sup>th</sup> at 19:00 in Hampton's Corners

Monroe County Director of Operation's Meeting: August 19<sup>th</sup> at 14:30 at the PSTF

Please review this information, and with any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our office.



## Department of Health

**ANDREW M. CUOMO**  
Governor

**HOWARD A. ZUCKER, M.D., J.D.**  
Commissioner

**SALLY DRESLIN, M.S., R.N.**  
Executive Deputy Commissioner

July, 2015

Dear EMS Colleagues:

Over 550 persons per day sustain brain injury in New York State from stroke, Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBI), etc., based on hospital data analyzed by the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH). Actual incidence is higher as the prior numbers exclude persons with brain injuries who seek treatment in a clinic, urgent care, or physician's office, and those with the injury who are not aware of it. Even a "mild" brain injury can result in lifelong disability. Enclosed are wallet cards produced in collaboration with this Bureau and others within the NYSDOH and the Department's TBI Grant Program to increase awareness about brain injury.

The enclosed cards provide information about the seriousness of brain injuries, signs and symptoms associated with them, and the need to receive medical care if symptoms develop. The cards are being sent to REMSCOs for distribution to the EMS agencies in their regions. These cards should be available **for EMS personnel to distribute to persons suspected of a brain injury**. Plastic pouches able to hold up to 40 cards each are provided to allow clean storage in EMS vehicles.

The wallet cards are intended to save lives and reduce disability from brain injury. In some cases, symptoms worsen in the hours after an initial injury causing death. Hospital based data also reveal over 8,000 fatalities from brain injuries annually; 2,000 from TBI with over 6,000 from stroke.

Your leadership and the efforts of the EMS personnel you oversee are important in this mission regarding brain injuries and saving lives. Thank you in advance for implementing this effort. Additional supplies of the enclosed cards may be requested by contacting the NYSDOH TBI Grant Program at [helen.hines@health.ny.gov](mailto:helen.hines@health.ny.gov)

Sincerely,

Lee Burns  
Director  
Bureau of Emergency Medical Services and Trauma Systems

Enclosures