



EMS Special Memorandum - #14-001

Date: April 24, 2013

To: Mendocino/ Sonoma County EMS Providers and System Stakeholders

From: Bryan Cleaver
Regional EMS Administrator

Mark Luoto, MD
Regional EMS Medical Director

Re: **Spinal Motion Restriction- Training Material Change and CQI Guidance**

The Coastal Valleys EMS Agency is releasing the final version of the Spinal Motion Restriction (SMR) Treatment Guideline 8002.

Please note that the new SMR principles represent a significant shift in the approach to prehospital immobilization practices. After completing an extensive training period involving outreach to receiving hospitals and pre-hospital providers CVEMSA anticipates a smooth transition managing patients.

During our training process an error was noted in slide #10 of the SMR PowerPoint presentation posted on the CVEMSA website. The slide was updated to read:

Athletes who have suffered a potential spine injury should have protective equipment removed, especially if it interferes with the maintenance of neutral spinal alignment. A general exception is the football helmet, which in conjunction with shoulder pads usually maintains a neutral cervical spine. If removal is necessary, the helmet and pads should be taken off at the same time. The face shield will often need to be removed to allow access to the patient's airway.

The goal is to maintain a safe, neutral in-line spine. This direction has been incorporated into our revised BLS Football Helmet Removal policy #8014.2 included with this memo.

CVEMSA is requiring 100% SMR CQI during the initial 6-months of policy release. Please refer to the SMR Audit Form available on the CVEMSA website. Provider agencies (CQI) will be responsible for reviewing cases in which SMR was applied and determining if technique was appropriate. Agency providers are to report any problems or concerns directly to CVEMSA.