



McHenry Western Lake County EMS System System Memo #25-10

To: MWLC EMSS PERSONNEL
From: MWLC EMSS
Date: 7/22/2025
RE: Controlled Substance CQI Documentation Clarification

Purpose: Communicate the expectation for documenting continuous ECG interpretation.

Goal: Ensure EMS Personnel properly document ECG interpretation information in patient care reports.

As part of the Controlled Substance CQI, reviewers evaluate whether continuous ECG interpretation was utilized for patients receiving controlled substance administration as part of their care. To accomplish this, reviewers evaluate the vitals report writers provide via Power Tools. (see snapshot of example CQI Reviewer's view below)

Vitals													
Date/Time Vital Signs Taken	Cardiac Rhythm / Electrocardiography (ECG)	ECG Type	SBP (Systolic Blood Pressure)	DBP (Diastolic Blood Pressure)	Method of Blood Pressure Measurement	Mean Arterial Pressure	Heart Rate	Respiratory Rate	Pulse Oximetry	End Tidal Carbon Dioxide (ETCO2)	Blood Glucose Level	Total Glasgow Coma Scores	Level of Responsiveness (AVPU)
[Date and Time]	Sinus Tachycardia	4 Lead	83	50	Cuff - Automated	61	118					3	
[Date and Time]	Sinus Tachycardia	4 Lead	83	50	Cuff - Automated	61	124	18		26	213	3	Unresponsive
[Date and Time]	Sinus Tachycardia	4 Lead	149	93	Cuff - Automated	111	129	17		23		3	Unresponsive
[Date and Time]	Sinus Tachycardia	4 Lead	120	74	Cuff - Automated	89	126	16	76	25		3	Unresponsive
[Date and Time]	Sinus Tachycardia	4 Lead	103	65	Cuff - Automated	77	110	19	80	29		3	Unresponsive
[Date and Time]	Sinus Tachycardia	4 Lead	128	62	Cuff - Automated	84	101	21	77	22		3	Unresponsive

The CQI Reviewer evaluates ECG interpretation by seeing if the report writer documents an ECG rhythm in this field in Power Tools.

Data imported from the monitor does not load an interpretation into this field and cannot be made to do so.

A human interpretation of the ECG for each set of vitals taken substantiates "continuous interpretation" satisfying the CQI requirement. If there are questions on how to document in this manner, please speak to your Image Trend Committee member for clarification.

John Pacini, Medical Director
Elizabeth DePouw, EMS Coordinator
Cindy Tabert, Associate EMS Coordinator

Chris Kopera, EMS Educator
Valerie Zage, EMS Educator
Jen Kucan, Paramedic Lead Instructor
Diane Klier, Administrative Assistant