

**Our Mission:**

To foster and support cooperative and cost effective regional emergency medical trauma systems development.

[WWW.NCRETAC.Org](http://WWW.NCRETAC.Org)



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**From The Desk of Benji Kitagawa**

**Greetings**

Hello to all the EMS medical directors of Northeastern Colorado. I hope everyone had a great holiday season. Are we ready for 2012? Two projects I hope to continue and will need input on are:

1. Regionalization of STEMI/Cardiac care within the RETAC.
  2. Examine and review protocols regarding spinal immobilization.
- Input from the Northeast RETAC EMS Medical Directors will be needed.
  - Included within this newsletter is a list of references for Medical Directors.

I will be scheduling a visit with each of you this year to help better meet any needs you may have. I will then plan to follow up by phone ~2 months after each visit to see if there were any improvements or significant changes occurred with your agency.

**Information from the state:**

[Apply](#) by Feb. 15, 2012 for an EMS and trauma provider grant or system improvement funding request. Click the Apply icon to be directed to the state website for further information. There will be an EMTS provider grants workshop on Jan. 18<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at the Sterling Public Library.

We are awaiting the publishing of the EMS Medical Director oversight tool box. I hope to be able to review this with each of you when it becomes available. I think it will be a great tool for all agencies.

**Important Dates:**

Pinnacle 2012 will be held this year July 16 – 20<sup>th</sup> in Colorado Springs. (<http://www.pinnacle-ems.com/>). Dave Bressler (Weld County Paramedic Services), Barb Kirkmeyer (Weld County Commissioner), and I are tentatively on the schedule to do a presentation!! Don't miss out!

EMTS Provider Grants Workshop January 18<sup>th</sup> at 7pm Sterling Public Library

The next **NEPAB** meeting is scheduled for February 7<sup>th</sup>

The next **EMPAC** meeting is scheduled for February 13<sup>th</sup>.

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**General:**

DEA has become very aggressive with EMS Medical Directors and diversion problems. Fines have been levied up to 15,000\$ per line item error on the 222 forms as well as get the Board of Medical Examiners involved with an inquiry. I will be attending the NAEMSP conference in Tucson next week and hope to bring back up to date information on how we all can better protect ourselves from any DEA investigations. Below is an excerpt from the list serve:

Morphine and fentanyl are ordered either on paper triplicate Form 222, or on line Form 222 (benzos are not). Whether signed by EMS Med Director or your authorized agent (and delegation requires completion of another DEA form or statement by EMS MD), the EMS MD is responsible for it. In the few states that require the EMS provider to have its own DEA license, I don't know whether EMS provider or EMS MD or both are accountable.

I use the paper Form 222—first 2 copies go to distributor to buy the drug, 3<sup>rd</sup> copy is for me to keep. There is a box in upper right that must be filled in by hand when the drugs are received (quantity of drugs and date received). Completed Form 222s must be kept readily available for DEA inspection for 2 years (longer if there is a suspected violation) at the site specified on the DEA license. If that box is NOT filled in there is a hefty fine per vial ordered. And any voided or non-filled but signed Form 222s must also be kept (they have sequential numbers and must be used in order).



**Collaboration:**

I will be available to medical directors through my email at [bkkitagawa@gmail.com](mailto:bkkitagawa@gmail.com) or by phone at 303-956-1812 to answer any questions or discuss concerns about EMS medical direction. I will also share information that I receive from medical directors that may help all of us as we experience different events that may improve our region. Please feel free to share so we can, together improve and support our system.

