



London Health Sciences Centre

Southwest Ontario Regional Base Hospital Program

Date: April 29, 2020
To: All paramedics in SWORBHP
From: Dr. Matthew Davis, Regional Medical Director
Subject: Patching Memo

4056 Meadowbrook Drive, Unit 145
London, Ontario, Canada N6L 1E5
Phone: (519) 667-6718
Fax: (519) 652-2051
<http://www.lhsc.on.ca>

Given the difficulties with bi-directional communication between paramedics and patch physicians secondary to concurrent PPE use while patching, SWORBHP and the Ontario Base Hospital Group (OBHG) are working on strategies to help reduce the impact this is having on safe patient care, paramedic safety and patch physicians. Managing the time sensitive nature of certain patch points may not be conducive to removal of the paramedic from scene, proper doffing of PPE, patching and then re-donning PPE once order received to return to paramedic care.

Until solutions that are developed that take into consideration both patient care and paramedic safety, please continue to utilize all patch points as per the ALS PCS v 4.7 until further notice. If communication on these patches is impeded by PPE and either the paramedic or patch physician is not able to provide or receive appropriate information, then the patch should be deemed a patch failure. Please document as such and proceed with the medical directive. After the call, please notify SWORBHP of the patch failure through the Communication (Self-Report) line or webpage.

In cases where a patient meets TOR criteria or potential pronouncement, patch failures will result in the patient being transported to the ED. In circumstances that it is highly likely that a TOR or pronouncement may be granted by the patch physician, proper doffing of PPE and patching to the patch physician can be considered by the paramedic.

Under no circumstances are paramedics expected to loosen or remove their mask or any other PPE to be better understood on base hospital physician patches while in PPE, even if asked to repeat themselves.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Matthew Davis".

Matthew Davis, MD, MSc, FRCPC
Regional Medical Director – SWORBHP