



Advisory Statement

REMSCO Advisory Number: 01-2021

Date: August 2, 2021

Re: Gold Locks and Controlled Substance Security

Purpose: To ensure EMS agencies have an adequate controlled substances security system that meets the standards and policies of the New York State Department of Health Bureau of EMS and Trauma Systems and New York State Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement.

Background: Currently, several Critical Care and Paramedic agencies within multiple counties utilize a standardized lock and key system to partially or fully secure controlled substances within agency vehicles and/or stations. Such a system is inadequate and allows for uncontrolled access by anyone who holds a key, including someone from another agency.

Advisory: Per the REMSCO's vote on July 19, 2021, by no later than January 1, 2022 but as soon as possible, all ALS level EMS agencies must discontinue use of the gold lock system and implement a security system that is unique to their agency, prevents diversion, and only allows their approved members to gain access to the stock. This change may require updates agency controlled substances plans. Please note that while the Council understands some controlled substances security options can be expensive, other approved and adequate options can be implemented with a minimal impact to budgets.


Travis Howe
Executive Director

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