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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Henderson County EMS Adopts New Procedure

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The Henderson County Emergency Medical Service (EMS) System has adopted a new medical procedure approved through the North Carolina Office of EMS. The new procedure changes how patients are immobilized after experiencing a traumatic event. The new “Spinal Motion Restriction” Protocol allows the County’s EMTs and Paramedics to provide a more enhanced way of assessing a patient for a spinal injury and reduces the number of times a patient needs to be secured to a spinal immobilization board.

Henderson County Medical Director Dr. Thomas Lacy states, “Studies show the new procedure will improve the patient’s comfort level and reduce the risk of injury through overly aggressive immobilization”.

Although full “traditional” spinal immobilization is not going away completely, the EMTs and Paramedics have received training to use spine boards less while maintaining the patient’s spine in a safe, neutral, in-line position in conjunction with a cervical collar and the stretcher.

If you have any questions regarding this new procedure, please contact the Henderson County EMS Training Office at 828-697-4560.

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