

**From: IAED**  
**Date: 20 July 2009**

### **New Release of Major Update to Protocol 36 -- Pandemic/Epidemic/Outbreak (Officially Enacted Triage)**

While the H1N1 (Swine Flu) situation continues to be a worldwide issue, it has waned in some regions, and waxed in others. As opposed to the 1918 Swine Flu pandemic, this virus variant has been much less lethal to its victims, causing less than a 1% fatality rate – generally in patients with other significant medical conditions that are more affected by this flu strain’s particular effects.

We have followed with great interest what has occurred regarding the IAED’s initial release of Protocol 36 on 29 April 2009 and, based on input from many agencies that have closely examined and run various scenarios on it, we have gained a more robust insight into its application and design.

This past week the Department of Health of the National Health Service in the United Kingdom announced that Protocol 36 should be initiated now based on local Ambulance Trust administration policy, beginning the triage of 999 presenting flu patients in order to potentially modify ambulance response schemes and refer flu patients to other available, non-mobile, resources.

[This new major release incorporates several significant changes in bettering your agency’s understanding of Protocol 36 use, as well as streamlining its internal processes as follows:](#)

- 1) Chief Complaint title has been modified to: **Pandemic/Epidemic/Outbreak (Officially Enacted Triage)**
- 2) Change of the name text for the Operator Question -- Enter the locally designated Pandemic Flu Level 1,2,3 to ...locally designated **Flu Triage Level 1,2,3**.
- 3) Addition of definition for **Outbreak** in AI section.
- 4) Modification of the **Additional Information section** to reflect the above changes.
- 5) **Simplification** of the internal Key Question and Answer Choice **text and logic**.
- 6) Created a logic return shunt to Protocol 10 – Chest Pain – when the **triad of Chest Pain, Vomiting, Sweating/Clammy symptoms are found** without other flu-like signs or symptoms.

- 7) Addition of a General **illness/Sick (other symptoms)** answer choice to the Operator Question: Select the most prominent complaint?
- 8) Modification of Cough to **Cough (recent onset)** to better hone flu patient identification in the Operator Question: Select the most prominent complaint?
- 9) Modification of the logic for Difficulty Breathing to include identification of **Cough-related problems** from those not involving coughing.

**Note:** No Determinant Codes were added or modified. Your CAD response tables should not be affected by this update.

One minor addition was made to the **Severe Respiratory Infection (SRI) Checklist**. It now includes a free text box to enter “when” the patient had contact with someone who had the flu or flu-like symptoms.

This ProQA and Manual Card update for versions 12.0 and 11.3 (issued today 20 July 2009) is for North American English, UK English, and Australia/New Zealand English users and is now available through the Protocol 36 links located on the Academy’s website: [www.emergencydispatch.org](http://www.emergencydispatch.org) and the PDC website: [www.prioritydispatch.net](http://www.prioritydispatch.net)

The IAED’s various other Protocol 36 language and dialect versions will be posted in order within the next few days. Please check the Protocol 36 section on the IAED and PDC websites for obtaining these releases.

The **Protocol 36 – Special Procedures Briefing document** is currently being updated and will also be posted along with each associated language and dialect.

Please check this website daily for the latest updates and releases of Protocol 36 and the Severe Respiratory Infection (Swine Flu) Symptoms checklist (SRI pop-up screen).

The Academy will continue to stay at the forefront in providing the EMD and EMS community with the most current tools to address this pandemic and any subsequent depletion of resources and medical capacity.

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