



Wisconsin State Patrol Division Headquarters
Hill Farms State Office Building
4822 Madison Yards Way, 9th Floor South
Madison, WI 53705

Governor Tony Evers
Secretary Kristina Boardman
wisconsindot.gov
Telephone: (844) 847-1234
FAX: (608) 267-4495

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Background: TR309.24(1)(im) requires every ambulance to be equipped with head immobilization devices, firm padding or commercial devices for adults and children.

Variance Request: A variance request was submitted to the Division of State Patrol (DSP) by the Systems Management & Development Committee of the Wisconsin EMS board to not require ambulances to carry these devices due to current evidence that shows the use of head immobilization devices (CID's, head blocks, or towel rolls) are not beneficial in the management of suspected cervical injuries. These types of devices are no longer included in WI. Dept. of Health Services guidance, including EMS Standard of Care & WI. EMS Protocols.

Guidance: The Division of State Patrol in agreement with the Division of Public Health, approve this variance with the below requirement:

- Trans 309.07(5) requires a copy of the variance to be carried in the ambulance at all times.

Sincerely,

Mark Mandler
Dept. of Health Services – EMS Section Manager

Captain Karl L. Mittelstadt
Division of State Patrol – Motor Carrier Enforcement Section