



## MEMORANDUM

To: Northeast Minnesota Hospitals and Ambulance Services  
From: NERTAC and Arrowhead EMS Association Leadership  
Date: 1 May 2024  
Subject: DMIST Protocol

The Northeast Minnesota Regional Trauma Advisory Committee (NERTAC) and the Arrowhead EMS Association (AEMSA) are excited to announce the retiring of its previous VMIT protocol and the recommendation of the more modern DMIST protocol for all patient hand offs.

On 11 January 2024 the NERTAC voted unanimously to adopt the recommended practice of using the DMIST protocol for all patient hand offs. The NERTAC then requested the support of the Northeast Minnesota Ambulance Services through the AEMSA to assist in operationalizing this change. At its Ambulance Managers meeting on 19 January 2024 the Ambulance Managers of the Arrowhead EMS Association voted to support this change across the region.

For historical reference, in 2013 NERTAC and AEMSA published its VMIT recommendation for patient hand offs for use by all member organizations. This move to DMIST reflects current best practices and available literature suggests that DMIST leads to safer hand offs between pre-hospital and hospital providers.

Attached to this letter you will find a sample DMIST Poster. We will also make available through the AEMSA website a copy of a short training course for your staff. We recognize that this will take some time to implement regionwide, but we also believe that consistent safe hand offs are paramount to the successful transition of patient care. If you would like someone to provide training or you require support in implementing this change, please don't hesitate to contact the NERTAC or AEMSA.

Respectfully,

Jane Smalley  
Chair, NERTAC

Adam Shadiw  
Executive Director, AEMSA