EMS Information Bulletin - #24 (revised)

Replaced by EMS Information Bulletin # 67

DATE: December 7, 2004

SUBJECT: Trauma Patient Destination/Statewide Air Ambulance Transport Protocol

TO: All Ambulance Services, Air Ambulance Services, Regional Medical Directors, ALS Service Medical Directors, Medical Command Facilities, and Trauma Centers

FROM: Emergency Medical Services Office
(717) 787-8740

This memo supersedes the March 10, 2004 memo on the same subject.

The Department of Health has revised the Trauma Patient Destination/Statewide Air Ambulance Transport Protocol as attached. This protocol revision was developed after the Department considered comments and recommendations from the State Advisory Council, the Pennsylvania Trauma Systems Foundation, and EMS and trauma system stakeholders, including the medical directors of air ambulance services and trauma centers located in the Commonwealth.

EMS personnel functioning with ground ambulance services shall use the Statewide Trauma Patient Destination Protocol (Statewide Protocol #180) to triage patients with acute traumatic injuries to appropriate receiving facilities and to determine when air medical transport of these patients is appropriate. When an air ambulance is indicated for transport of a patient with an acute traumatic injury, the air ambulance crew is responsible for determining the appropriate destination consistent with the revised Trauma Patient Destination/Statewide Air Protocol (#190). EMS personnel functioning with a ground ambulance and medical command physicians giving command to ground ambulance services shall not make recommendations that are inconsistent with this revised protocol.

The Trauma Patient Destination/Statewide Air Ambulance Transport Protocol applies to all persons regulated under the EMS Act when they are involved with the transport of an acute trauma patient by an air ambulance or involved in the process of determining whether an air ambulance should be used to transport a trauma patient.

This protocol revision becomes effective January 1, 2005, and is issued pursuant to section 5(c) of the Emergency Medical Services Act, 35 P.S. § 6925(c), which gives the Department of Health authority to establish protocols for the transport and transfer of acutely ill and injured patients to the most appropriate facility, and pursuant to the Department's responsibility under section 4 of the EMS Act, 35 P.S. § 6924, to guide and coordinate the development of emergency medical service systems into a unified statewide system. Regional EMS council quality improvement plans include 100% review of trauma patients transported by air ambulance, and issues of compliance are reported to the Department.

Attachments:

1. Revised Trauma Patient Destination/Statewide Air Medical Transport Protocol
2. Revised EMS Information Bulletin for immediate distribution to all ambulance services, air ambulance services, regional medical directors, ALS service medical directors, and medical command facilities.
3. Appendix A - Latitude and Longitude of PA Trauma Center Helipads
4. Appendix B - Primary and preferred contact information for PA trauma centers
5. Appendix C - Adjacent State Trauma Centers nearby Pennsylvania Borders that have Qualifications and Accreditation Processes similar to Pennsylvania