



Westchester Regional EMS Council

M e m o r a n d u m

To: Regional EMS Agencies and Dispatch Centers

Fr: Daniel Blum, REMSCO Chair and Dr. Nicholas DeRobertis, REMAC Chair

Re: New Policy Regarding EMS Resource Utilization

Date: February 18, 2011

The Westchester Regional Emergency Medical Advisory Committee (REMAC) and Westchester Regional EMS Council (REMSCO) have developed and approved a new policy intended to provide improved guidance to EMS agencies, first responders, and dispatch centers on appropriate coordination of regional EMS system resources. With the ultimate goal being to maximize EMS unit availability and minimize unnecessary delays in patient transport, this policy includes the following key system modifications:

1. Realizing the critical role of emergency services dispatch coordination, this policy encourages the use of Priority Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) programs for all EMS agencies, and those agencies authorized by REMAC to provide Advanced Life Support (ALS) services will be required to be dispatched by EMD dispatch centers effective January 1, 2013;
2. To establish uniform and pre-planned coordination of limited ALS personnel and services, the REMAC has approved regional ALS utilization criteria for simultaneous dispatch and intercepts of ALS services;
3. In an effort to alleviate response delays associated with mutual aid requests, dispatch centers and EMS agencies are strongly recommended to establish a process that allows for EMS units to confirm operational availability with the dispatch center;
4. This policy also addresses important issues surrounding a multi-tiered EMS system including patient care responsibilities and cancellation of Basic Life Support (BLS) and ALS pre-hospital personnel.

In addition to this new policy, an update of the Regional Air Medical Services Guidelines has been completed and approved. These streamlined Guidelines contain expanded criteria for helicopter scene response requests to include critical medical conditions such as suspected acute stroke or myocardial infarction.

Although these policies are intended to help improve identified operational challenges facing the EMS system today, it is only through a unified regional approach that system enhancements will be able to be achieved so the EMS system may work seamlessly during routine and major events.

Please distribute these policies among your respective staff and providers. Your cooperation and assistance is greatly appreciated. Questions related to these policies may be directed to the Regional EMS office at 914-231-1616.

Respectfully,

Daniel Blum
Chair, Westchester Regional EMS Council

Dr. Nicholas DeRobertis, MD, FACEP
Chair, Westchester Regional Emergency Medical Advisory Committee