

The Bradford Susquehanna EMS Council

DATE: September 21, 2005

SUBJECT: Regional trauma patient destinations after closure of the Level II trauma center at Robert Packer Hospital

TO: Regional EMS Providers
EMS Advisory Board
Regional Emergency Medical Advisory Committee

FROM: Charles Bement, Director

Effective 10/1/05, Robert Packer Hospital will not be accredited as a trauma center in Pennsylvania. Recognizing that there is not an accredited Pennsylvania Trauma Center ≤ 30 minutes by ground ambulance, this will affect the selection of appropriate trauma patient destinations for EMS services from the Bradford Susquehanna region. All EMS personnel should review the attached Trauma Patient Destination Statewide BLS Protocol #180. The following statements are consistent with this protocol and are provided for clarification:

1) In Category I Trauma (as defined in the Trauma Patient Destination Protocol):

Air transport should be used, if possible, to transport the patient to the closest accredited Pennsylvania trauma center if the patient can arrive at the closest trauma center in ≤ 30 minutes. Otherwise, the patient should be taken by ground ambulance to the Robert Packer Hospital, if the patient can arrive there in ≤ 30 minutes. Otherwise, contact medical command for assistance in determining destination.

2) In Category 2 Trauma (as defined in the Trauma Patient Destination Protocol):

Regional policy now requires that EMS practitioners contact medical command for assistance with destination decisions for all Category 2 trauma patients unless the patient will be transported to Robert Packer Hospital in < 30 minutes.

If Medical Command cannot be contacted, consider air transport to closest accredited Pennsylvania trauma center if ground transport to Robert Packer Hospital is > 30 minutes. Otherwise, transport to the closest hospital if transport time to Robert Packer Hospital is > 30 minutes.

3) In Category 3 Trauma (as defined in the Trauma Patient Destination Protocol):

Transport to appropriate local receiving hospital.

4) Air ambulance personnel must continue to follow the Trauma Patient Destination Statewide Air Ambulance Protocol #190.

5) The New York State trauma center accreditation process is not similar to the trauma center accreditation process used in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. New York trauma centers are not eligible to receive Pennsylvania trauma patients in accordance with the Pennsylvania Statewide Trauma Patient Destination Protocols.

Attachments:

Trauma Patient Destination Statewide BLS Protocol #180

Trauma Patient Destination Statewide Air Medical Transport Protocol #190