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MEMORANDUM #2014-04

FROM: Office of the Medical Director
Saginaw Valley Medical Control Authority (SVMCA)

TO: Public Safety personnel and dispatch agencies

SUBJECT: DISPATCHING OF MEDICAL UNITS FOR MOTOR VEHICLE INJURIES

9-1-1 activations of EMS to motor vehicle accidents where injuries are known or suspected to have occurred (PIs) have been traditionally responded to by both the nearest-most-appropriate ambulance and the local fire- /police-based Medical First Responder agency (if there is an MFR in the jurisdiction). Since traffic accidents with injuries are included in the focus response model, there is typically no question of whether the MFR agency should be sent. However, there has been question of whether to send the local MFR agency when injuries are discovered only after law enforcement arrival at the scene.

It is the stance of the Medical Director's Office that regardless whether injuries from motor vehicle accidents are identified initially by 9-1-1 or later by law enforcement; that they receive an identical response where both the ambulance and local MFR agency are dispatched concurrently. It should be considered that a request for medical assistance is not just an ambulance but rather the activation of the EMS system. Requests from public safety officers for "just an ambulance" shall not be honored until a licensed pre-hospital provider deems it appropriate.

Besides representing a consistent approach to the dispatch of units to PIs; this process keeps all centers and agencies in compliance with both the Michigan Public Health Code and approved SVMCA protocol.

Current protocols do allow for public safety officials to request an EMS response non-emergently if they believe the injuries are non-life-threatening. Therefore, any unit dispatched to a PI shall downgrade to a non-emergent response based on the request of the public safety officer on the scene.

As always, if you have any question please feel free to contact our office.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Noel Wagner', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Noel Wagner, MD NREMT-P
Medical Director, SVMCA