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Memo To: All NHSHP-authorized EMS personnel

From: David C. Cone, MD Albert Gambino, Jr, PA-C
MIC Medical Director Director

Date: 25 November 2007

Re: Communication regarding trauma patients

It is common in our system for field personnel to ask CMED to “have Yale Pedi set up for a full” or “have Ray’s set up for a modified.” While we always encourage early notification and clinical communication between the field and the receiving trauma center, we would like to ask that field personnel communicate the nature of the injuries and mechanism, and not request a specific type of trauma activation (modified vs full).

The criteria for “full” vs “modified” are not the same at Yale Pedi as they are at Yale Adult, and they aren’t the same at HSR as they are at Yale. There are a number of reasons for this, mostly based on the lack of state or national standards in this area. Frequently, the level of activation requested by the reporting EMS provider doesn’t match the trauma activation criteria used at the receiving hospital, causing much confusion for the ED staff.

Communicating the nature of the injuries and the mechanism of injury (paying close attention to those criteria triggering a trauma response such as height of the fall, or the amount of MVC interior intrusion) will allow the ED staff to activate the trauma team according to that facility’s criteria. Thanks for your help.

