

TO: All WREMAC Provider & Hospitals

FROM: Brian Clemency D.O. - WREMAC Chairman

RE: Hospitals with Limited Inpatient Capabilities

DATE: 11/24/14

The WREMAC region contains 2 Emergency Departments without (or effectively without) inpatient capabilities:

1. Newfane (Eastern Niagara) - 2600 William Street, Newfane
2. Mercy Ambulatory Care Center - 3669 Southwestern Blvd, Orchard Park

These facilities are capable of receiving EMS patients being transported by ground ambulance and are staffed by physicians and nurses. They are furnished with all of the equipment, diagnostics, and therapeutics that are found in other area Emergency Departments to stabilize the critically ill patient and are open 24/7.

One important difference, however, is that patients seen at these facilities who will be admitted for anything from a cardiac evaluation to sepsis, will likely require transportation by a second ambulance to another area hospital.

As a result, EMS providers must recognize that although they may transport patients to these facilities, a few considerations are in order. Consistent with existing state and regional protocols, patients meeting trauma center, STEMI Alert, or Stroke Alert criteria should not be transported to one of these facilities and instead should be routed to the nearest hospital designated to receive those patients. Further, although these facilities are capable of managing all acuities, providers should transport higher acuity patients – particularly those whom the provider believes are likely to be admitted to a hospital – to other area hospitals with inpatient capabilities. Lastly, these facilities do not have psychiatric services, and therefore patients requiring psychiatric evaluation should be preferentially transported to hospitals with psychiatric services.

With that said, these facilities are capable of stabilizing any critical patient, and thus **EMS can and should bring a patient in cardiac arrest, an unstable airway, or other life-threatening conditions that if not stabilized could result in imminent death if transport were delayed by going to another destination.**

The WREMAC recognizes that EMS providers may not always be able to anticipate which patients will require inpatient admission or have other immediately life-threatening conditions that if not stabilized could result in imminent death if transport were delayed by going to another destination. Providers are asked to follow their protocols and use their best judgment, supplemented by online medical control when appropriate.