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MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 15, 2007

TO: EMS Providers in counties bordering West Virginia

FROM: Tim Erskine, EMT-P, Acting State Trauma Coordinator

SUBJECT: West Virginia Trauma Centers

As many of you know, Ohio law is very specific about the requirements that must be met in order for Ohio to recognize a hospital as a trauma center. According to the law (ORC §4765.01(Q)(3)), any hospital in another state that is licensed or designated by that state as a trauma center is recognized by the State of Ohio as a trauma center for Ohio EMS providers.

West Virginia enacted legislation that permits Ohio to recognize a number of trauma centers in West Virginia. The details of the process that West Virginia uses to recognize their trauma centers can be found by visiting the Office of Emergency Medical Services page on the West Virginia Department of Health's web site <http://www.wvoems.org>.

The list of trauma centers located in West Virginia, close to Ohio's border can be found on the Ohio Division of EMS web site at http://www.ems.ohio.gov/trauma/trauma_centers.htm. Ohio EMS providers should incorporate these trauma care resources into their local trauma triage protocols as appropriate. Unless one of the five exceptions to trauma center triage exists, EMS providers should transport trauma patients to a trauma center. In many border counties these trauma centers in West Virginia may be the closest appropriate trauma center and a potential transport destination for trauma patients.

If you have any questions about this issue, feel free to contact me at 800-233-0785.

Mission Statement

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