Dear Region 2 EMS Community,

I am reaching out to the Region 2 providers with a request received from our hospitals regarding leaving/transmitting patient care reports (PCRs). Your prehospital assessment, care, and interventions are a critical part of the patient’s treatment, and having access to your documentation is extremely helpful in the continuum of care. 105 CMR 170.345 **“requires the timely leaving/transmission of patient care reports”** because it is important to the receiving hospitals, especially for patients being treated for critical illness.

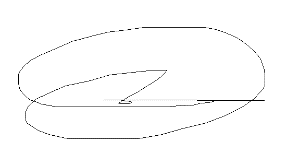
               I am aware that there are some potential technical barriers to getting PCRs transmitted to the hospitals, and that, in many cases, the EMS service may not have any way to know whether the PCR has been received successfully. It’s also clear that everyone is incredibly busy and that the demand for your services is only increasing both in terms of volume and complexity. Finally, I know that many EDs continue to struggle with getting EMS crews unloaded and back on the road. You have my ongoing commitment that each institution is aware of the importance of this issue, and on the hospital side, we are working hard to continue to improve the situation.

               With that being said, I wanted to remind everyone and request that you make every effort to transmit your PCRs to the receiving ED within 24 hours of completing the handoff. The primary importance of this is for continuity of patient care and the ability of the hospital to track its responses to patients arriving by EMS for critical diagnoses such as stroke, STEMI, and trauma. However, even outside of these diagnoses, your records are incredibly valuable and helpful as the hospital continues the care that you initiated. The ability to access these records is also a requirement of the Joint Commission for hospital accreditation and is particularly important for patients with time-sensitive diagnoses.

If you encounter any issues with transmitting these records, please let me know so that I can work with the hospitals to correct the problem or at least make them aware of the failure.

As always, I am incredibly thankful for the work that you all do and for the opportunity to work with you as we continue to care for the patients in our region.

All the best,



John Broach, MD

Region 2 Medical Director