




STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Joe Manchin III
Governor

Martha Yeager Walker
Secretary

MEMORANDUM

TO: All EMS Agencies
All Regional Medical Command Centers
All WV Licensed Aeromedical Services
All Regional Program Directors
All Regional Medical Directors

FROM: William D. Ramsey, M.D. 
State EMS Medical Director

DATE: April 20, 2009

RE: Update on Coordination of Scene Aeromedical Flights

As of today an additional licensed EMS aeromedical resource will begin operation in Region 2 based at Logan Airport. Although this helicopter is based in Region 2 it may in certain situations be the closest helicopter for scene flights in other Regions as well, especially Region 1 and Region 3/4.

Please study carefully the attached memos which clarify and review the policy and procedures to be utilized by all EMS agencies and medical command centers with regard to coordination of scene aeromedical response and coordination.

All entities involved in the care of patients within the West Virginia Trauma and EMS System must continue to follow the established policies and procedures related to utilization of aeromedical resources. Please take special note in the attached memos and the WV EMS Protocols of the procedures related to the following areas in particular:

1. Procedure for requesting a Helicopter EMS (HEMS) response.
2. Responsibilities and authority of the jurisdictional Medical Command Center.
3. Patient criteria for appropriate HEMS response.

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4. Importance of continuous updates on location and status of HEMS resources between EMS dispatch centers and Regional Medical Command Centers and between Regional Medical Command Centers themselves.
5. Requirements of documentation and review of all scene flights.

Although the ultimate responsibility for the method of transport and destination for interfacility transfers ultimately rests with the sending physician in conjunction with the receiving facility physician(s), Medical Command Centers should still provide coordination assistance as requested to ensure optimal utilization of resources and to assist in providing coordination to assure optimal patient care and to insure safe operations.

If you require additional clarification relating to this issue please feel free to contact me or Deron Wilkes, WVOEMS Chief of Operations.

WDR/nll