



March 23, 2020

EMS Agency Medical Directors
EMS Leadership

I am writing as the Executive Director of the Eastern PA EMS Council and on behalf of our Medical Advisory Committee (MAC). I am sure you are all quite busy in your own normal duties coordinating your response to COVID-19, know we are thinking of you and look towards the safe return to normalcy for all.

The Eastern EMS Council has hosted multiple virtual meetings in the past week to discuss the collaborative response to COVID-19 and adjustments to normal operations that may be needed.

Depleted staffing is an obvious concern, although not experienced yet, I feel it is inevitable that it will occur. To that end, we have discussed plans should it be necessary to staff EMS vehicles with practitioners from partnering EMS agencies. For example 1 provider from agency A working together with 1 provider from agency B in a truck supplied by either one of the agencies.

Working to our advantage is the fact that we are all now utilizing statewide protocols, standardized regional medications, and a relatively similar set of equipment and supplies.

A challenge is the fact that all medical command is "EMS Agency based" and up to individual agency medical directors.

During a regional MAC meeting hosted March 18, 2020 we brought this issue up with the committee. Our request was that they consider drafting guidance and a MOU that could be circulated to all agency medical directors and agency leadership with the hope that everyone would be willing to sign on.

The regional MAC felt this should be done by each individual EMS agency as opposed to coming from the regional EMS Council. While we are aware that some departments have already had discussions with their Medical Directors and others may have unique challenges, it was decided that as a region we would draft a MOU for your consideration. We believe that by providing a draft MOU we will be able to accomplish this goal in a much more efficient and timely manner.

Understanding that some of you may have questions or wish further guidance, I would urge you to contact the Eastern PA EMS Council at 610-820-9212.

We encourage our EMS Leadership engage your agency medical director and consider this alternative staffing model should our system face strains as we continue forward.

Thank you for your support, leadership and commitment during this challenging time for our First Responders and our country.

John G. Kloss
Executive Director

Dr. Alex Rosenau
Regional Co-Medical Director

Dr. Duane Siberski
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