

South Carolina Rural EMS coalition

Position Statement Aeromedical Transport / Trauma Center QA Feedback

ABSTRACT

Rural Emergency Medical Services agencies in predominately rural South Carolina are frequent users of Aeromedical transportation. Helicopter services have become widely available and their services greatly augment the process of timely delivery of trauma patients to the state's trauma centers. When the care of these patients is turned over to the aeromedical team, all contact with the patient is lost. EMS agencies need to know what has happened to these patients. This information is needed for quality processes, billing augmentation, statistical data analysis, location of EMS equipment and to answer psychological needs and closure for EMS personnel.

POSITION

The membership of the South Carolina Rural EMS Coalition has agreed with the following statements.

1. Aeromedical service providers should contact the EMS agency post-incident with-in 24 hours with a report of the following: a) the name of the trauma center where the patient was delivered, b) the condition status of the patient upon delivery at the trauma center, c) a critique of the first-aid/EMS procedures given to the patient before arrival of the helicopter, d) a critique of the landing zone and landing process.
2. Trauma Centers should contact the EMS and Aeromedical service provider post-incident within 48 hours with a report of the patients condition and any critique of patient care which may offer patient care improvement opportunities.
3. All information should be coded or filtered to respect patient confidentiality and HIPPA regulations.

The South Carolina Rural EMS Coalition membership requests that responsible agencies and organizations cosign and express their support for the above position. We believe that the above position is in the best interest of patients and health care providers and should be instituted as soon as practical.

Approved October 7, 2008