



UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Department of Emergency Medicine
School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences
Erie County Medical Center
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Buffalo, New York 14215
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June 1, 1995

Dear ALS Service Official:

I would like to again review the trauma protocol, especially as it relates to IV therapy. The initiation of an IV should **NEVER** delay transport of a trauma patient. **THEREFORE, IV'S SHOULD NEVER BE ESTABLISHED PRIOR TO TRANSPORT EXCEPT WHEN TRANSPORT IS DELAYED FOR SOME OTHER REASON.** The Few Reasons for delay of transport may include patient extrication or airway control (e.g., intubation by a second ALS provider). Please ensure that each of your ALS providers thoroughly understands and practice this!

Also, I would like to remind you to encourage each of your prehospital care providers to document on every PCR: why they transported that particular patient to that particular hospital. This documentation should include a simple statement in the narrative such as: "Patient Request" "Family Request", "Closest Facility", "Closest Appropriate Facility", "Patient Meets Trauma Triage Guidelines", "Specialty Center", "Police Request", "Crisis Service Request", "Physician Direction", etc. This should apply to all patients (not just trauma patients).

Please share my above requests with each and every one of your ALS providers. Feel free to contact me should you or they have any questions, comments, concerns or suggestions. I thank you for your continued dedication to prehospital care.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anthony J. Billittier IV".

Anthony J. Billittier IV, M.D.
Medical Director Prehospital Care
Erie County Medical Center

AJB:gs