Date: September 28, 2007
To: All EMS Care Providers
From: Gary E. Wiemokly, M.P.H., EMT-P, R.N.
EMS Section Chief
Cc: Joan Leavitt
Section Chief Facility Licensing & Investigations
Re: Patient Safety

Recent experiences have brought to light the importance of assuring proper patient identification when providing interfacility transports.

When providing interfacility care and transportation please assure that the patient has a current and proper name band on provided by the sending facility. If you encounter a patient whose identity you cannot confirm with a name band, confirm the patient’s identity with staff from the sending facility and confirm that you are in possession of the correct W-10 form prior to transporting the patient. Although patients in Nursing Homes must be identified by some mechanism, this requirement is by no means universal in method if identification.

As you are well aware often patients are too ill to provide or accurately confirm their own identity. Proper patient identification is key to patient safety.