



**Emergency Medical Services
of Northeastern Pennsylvania, Inc.**
1153 Oak Street, Pittston, Pennsylvania 18640

Bart Burne, Ed.D.
PRESIDENT

John E. Campos
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

December 29, 2011

To: Chief Operating Officer,
All Regional Ambulance Services

From: John E Campos
Executive Vice President

Subject: Ambulance Re-stocking Changes

At the request of several hospitals in northeastern Pennsylvania, EMSNP staff facilitated a meeting of all of the hospitals in the region to discuss the issue of ambulance restocking and "Safe Harbor"

As you are aware, or as you should be aware, based upon the anti-kickback statute, section 1128B(b) of the Social Security Act the restocking of ambulances by hospitals can only take place under the "Safe Harbor" provisions outlined by the Office of Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services. This has been the basis for any restocking that has taken place in the region since 2001. Without going into detail, "Safe Harbor" requires all hospitals in a given area to have identical restocking arrangements. Thus no advantage/gain to knowingly or unknowingly influence patient destination,

I have been asked by the hospitals to inform all ambulance services that effective March 1, 2012 the hospitals will cease to restock all supplies, medications, etc. They will replace a patient linen pack, to include: pillow case, 2 sheets, bath blanket; this will be on an exchange basis. This was a consensus of and agreed to by all the hospitals in Lackawanna, Luzerne, Wayne and Wyoming Counties. As I explained, for "safe harbor" to apply, all hospitals must agree to any "restocking" arrangements.

The agreement reached at the above referenced meeting is intended for the general restocking of supplies, not for any specific service/hospital agreement. If a service has a specific agreement/contract for restocking anything, the service should contact that facility(s) to determine/verify its status and compliance with statutory provisions under safe harbor.

CC: Hospital Emergency Department Directors