March 27, 2020

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Health Commissioner Howard A. Zucker, MD, JD
Empire State Plaza Corning Tower
Albany, NY 12237

Dear Governor Cuomo and Commissioner Dr. Zucker,

In response to your request for suggestions to increase the capacity of dealing with COVID-19 cases, we offer the following recommendation and reasoning for the utilization of paramedics in the hospital setting within the State of New York.

Paramedics, and specialty care paramedics have the skills, knowledge, and experience that our healthcare systems need in this time of crisis, and their capabilities should be utilized by hospital staff, to meet the medical needs of patients.

Specialty care paramedics who have obtained board certification in flight paramedicine (FP-C®) and critical care paramedicine (CCP-C®), have demonstrated their knowledge and expertise in the management of acutely ill patients requiring advanced medical care. Specifically, some of the specialized skills are advanced airway, respiratory, and ventilator management along with hemodynamic understanding and medication administration. In addition, community paramedics from California to Ottawa are playing an important role in pre-hospital care by providing testing and virtual care assessments in patient homes, limiting virus spread and mitigating strain on local emergency departments.

While the ability of EMS systems to respond to and manage patients in the initial phase of medical emergencies must not be interrupted, the utilization of paramedics to ensure continuity of care for patients within hospitals must be considered. Their knowledge and skill set is diverse and serves as an excellent complement to the structures and scopes of professionals already in place.

In conclusion, we propose the use of specialty care paramedics as an effective element of the solution supporting your citizens in meeting their medical needs. You will not find a more adaptable, capable, and driven asset to the cause. Please consider paramedics as a viable option and valuable resource to the present crisis.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions or to request further information.

Sincerely

Ryan Walter
President