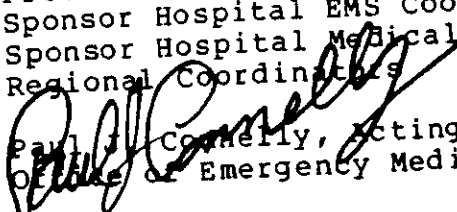


Memo to: Provider Services  
Sponsor Hospital EMS Coordinators  
Sponsor Hospital Medical Directors  
Regional Coordinators

Memo from:  Paul J. Connelly, Acting Director  
Office of Emergency Medical Services

Subject: Insignia Identification

Date: February 7, 1991

#### POSITION STATEMENT

EMT-Paramedics and EMT-Intermediates should not wear shoulder patches or other insignia identifying their certification levels when they are officially on duty and functioning with a service certified at a lower level. This can create confusion in command at the scene and create expectations in patients and others that cannot be met. It also may place the provider at some risk if a patient feels that he/she had a certain level of care provided and did not.

It must be emphasized that the individual provider may function only at the level of the service to which he/she is attached while on duty - not at the level of his/her own certification, if different. Confusing this issue at a scene is counterproductive.

Those who have earned the right to wear these insignia are and should be proud of their accomplishments but should likewise be sensitive to times when wearing the insignia can potentially cause problems.

PAS/PJC:kah

cc: Deborah Haliscak, MIC Coordinator



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

Office of Emergency Medical Services

June 7, 1991

Mr. Garrett F. Casey  
c/o Medstar, Inc.  
P. O. Box 4667  
Waterbury, Connecticut 06708

Dear Garrett:

In this letter I will try to capture the essence of our recent telephone conversation regarding the wearing of certification insignia. In general, a paramedic's ability to function as a paramedic is constrained by three things: the individual's level of certification and authorization, the service's level of certification and authorization which implies medical control, and the availability of the proper equipment with which to perform. Should any of these factors be absent, the paramedic will not be able to treat patients with the full compliment of paramedic level skills.

In a situation in which the paramedic works a shift as a BLS provider on a BLS-equipped unit, the paramedic will not have the necessary equipment to perform paramedic skills and therefore must not wear the paramedic rocker. In a second situation in which the paramedic works at times with a service that is not certified to the paramedic level, the paramedic may not wear the paramedic rocker while on duty with that service. Your third statement, that MIC providers may only wear rockers reflecting the level of care they are able to render on any particular shift, is correct.

The sense of all this is that everyone should be accurately able to assess levels of skill which are available and able to be rendered to a patient by looking at the certification insignia. If any of the three components of skill provision, i.e., individual authorization, service certification or authorization, or equipment, is not available on a particular scene, then advanced level care is not available for that patient.

I hope this statement makes the issue clearer for you by restating the basic premise with which we are working. It will have application at many levels of service and in many different kinds of situations. Please feel free to call me if you have further questions.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marie".

E. Marie Wilson, Chief  
Field Services Section

EMW/kah

cc: Paul J. Connelly, Acting Director  
Philip A. Stent, M.D., F.A.C.S., Medical Director  
Deborah Haliscak, MIC Coordinator

Phone:

150 Washington Street • Hartford, Connecticut 06106

*An Equal Opportunity Employer*