



Monroe Livingston Region Program Agency

Division of Prehospital Medicine, University of Rochester

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To: All Providers and Agencies

From: Jeremy T. Cushman, MD, MS, EMT-P 
Regional Medical Director

Date: July 28, 2014

Re: Advisory 14-10: UR Strong West

The University of Rochester Strong West Emergency Department will open on August 4th, 2014 at 0800 hours. This facility is capable of receiving EMS patients being transported by ground ambulance and is staffed by emergency physicians and nurses. Further, the facility is furnished with all of the equipment, diagnostics, and therapeutics that are found in other area Emergency Departments to stabilize the critically ill patient and will be open 24/7.

One important difference, however, is that the Strong West ED Facility lacks any inpatient beds. Thus any patient that requires admission for anything from a cardiac evaluation to sepsis, will require transportation by contracted ambulance to another area hospital.

As a result, EMS providers must recognize that although they may transport patients to Strong West, a few considerations are in order. Consistent with existing area protocols, any patient meeting trauma center, STEMI Alert, or Stroke Alert criteria **should not** be transported to the Strong West ED and instead should be routed to the nearest facility designated to receive those patients. Further, although the Strong West ED is capable of managing all acuities, it is ideally suited to care for low-acuity EMS patients. Providers should transport higher acuity patients – particularly those whom the provider believes are likely to be admitted to a hospital – to other area hospitals with inpatient capabilities. Lastly, the Strong West ED will not have psychiatric services, and therefore patients requiring psychiatric evaluation should be preferentially transported to hospitals with psychiatric services.

With that said, the Strong West ED is capable of stabilizing any critical patient, and thus EMS can bring a patient in cardiac arrest, an unstable airway, or other life-threatening conditions that if not stabilized could result in imminent death if transport were delayed by going to another destination. Further, the Strong West ED can provide Medical Control to EMS units transporting to its facility. The Medical Control number is 585-395-0259 and may be used as a resource to help aid in destination determination as well as for obtaining Medical Control Orders.

To arrange for a tour of the Strong West ED or with any questions regarding the facility and its capabilities, please contact Wendy Allen-Thompson at Wendy_AllenThompson@urmc.rochester.edu or 585-758-1010.