



DATE: August 17, 2017  
TO: Region XI Participating Hospitals  
FROM: Region XI EMS Medical Directors Consortium  
SUBJECT: MERCI Radio

Region XI EMS is transitioning toward a new system for field to hospital communication. Each hospital must have a telemetry station or a functioning MERCI radio to receive pre-notification of EMS transports.

The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH or 'the Department') requires each hospital to have a functioning MERCI radio per the IDPH Administrative Code ([Section 515.400 General Communication](#)) as listed in italics below. IDPH defines "two-way" and "VHF communication" as the MERCI radio.

*d) All hospitals participating in an EMS Plan or receiving emergency patients by ambulances must:*

- 1) Have two-way ambulance-to-hospital communications capability on a frequency determined and assigned by the Department; and*
- 2) Have two-way hospital-to-hospital communications capability.*

*e) The use of cellular telephone technology is permitted provided that:*

- 1) The ambulance also has VHF or UHF radio back-up on a frequency assigned by the Department; and*
- 2) The permission of the EMS Resource Hospital is obtained.*

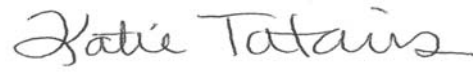
The statewide MERCI radio system allows for a reliable method of "two-way" ambulance-to-hospital or hospital-to-hospital communication in event of a disaster situation where cellular lines are inoperable.

**Each Region XI participating hospital has until January 1, 2018** to ensure that a functional "two-way" communication is in place to receive pre-notification calls from EMS providers in the Region XI EMS System. Please direct any questions toward your Resource Hospital EMS Coordinator.

Sincerely,



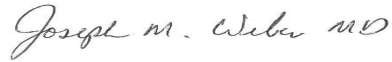
Kenneth Pearlman, MD  
Chair, Region XI EMS Medical Directors Consortium  
EMS Medical Director  
Northwestern Memorial Hospital



Katie Tataris, MD, MPH  
EMS Medical Director  
University of Chicago Medical Center



Eddie Markul, MD  
EMS Medical Director  
Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center



Joseph Weber, MD  
EMS Medical Director  
John H. Stroger Jr., Hospital of Cook County

Copy to: Jack Fleeharty, RN, EMT-P, Division Chief, EMS & Highway Safety, Illinois Department of Public Health  
Elizabeth Duarte, RN, BSN, MBA, Regional EMS Coordinator, Illinois Department of Public Health  
Laura Eggers, RN, EMS System Coordinator, University of Chicago Medical Center  
Patricia Lindeman, RN, EMS System Coordinator, Northwestern Memorial Hospital  
David Reisinger, RN, EMS System Coordinator, John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County  
Lisa Wax, RN, EMS System Coordinator, Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center  
Mary Sheridan, Assistant Deputy Fire Commissioner EMS, Chicago Fire Department