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January 22, 2015

Kevin G. Munjal, MD, MPH
Founder, NY Mobile Integrated Healthcare Association (NYMIHA)
c/o Mount Sinai Medical Center
One Gustave Levy Place, Box 1620
New York, NY 10029

Dear Dr. Munjal,

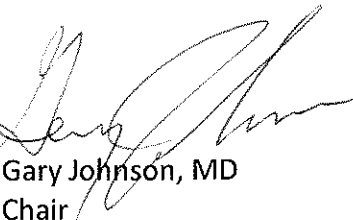
Our organization/institution, SUNY Upstate Medical University's Department of Emergency Medicine, endorses and supports the efforts of the New York Mobile Integrated Healthcare Association. Specifically, we support the Association's model of improved out-of-hospital care including all efforts to make emergency medical services (EMS) more patient-centered and adaptive to changes in the healthcare system. We also endorse efforts to make out-of-hospital care more integrated into the continuum of healthcare delivery and to integrate EMS into the public health infrastructure.

We also specifically endorse the recommended changes to Article 30 described in the State EMS Council's Conceptual Framework on Community Paramedicine which advocate for the inclusion of "non-emergency" care within the description of the role of the EMT or Paramedic.

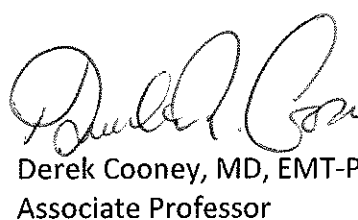
The current New York State Medicaid reimbursement policy does not allow EMS providers to deliver higher quality, patient-centered healthcare. Instead, it emphasizes transport. We support any effort by the NYMIHA to realign financial incentives for out-of-hospital care to support value provided to patients. We believe that changing New York State Medicaid reimbursement policy will enable providers of EMS to make a wide array of contributions to improving population health while lowering costs.

We recognize and thank the NY Mobile Integrated Healthcare Association for initiating a statewide dialogue about the potential impact of improved out-of-hospital care. We encourage other organizations, hospital systems, public and private healthcare insurers, and government regulators to engage in this important discussion about the numerous social and financial benefits prehospital care can have throughout the state.

Sincerely,



Gary Johnson, MD
Chair



Derek Cooney, MD, EMT-P
Associate Professor



Christian Knutsen, MD, MPH
Assistant Professor