

June 5, 2013

To: Kevin G. Munjal, MD, MPH
Founder, NY Community Paramedicine Task Force

Dear Dr. Munjal,

On behalf of General Devices, I would like to indicate our support for the efforts of the NY Community Paramedicine Task Force. We support the Task Force's vision of new models of prehospital care including elements to make emergency response more patient-centered and adaptive to changes in the healthcare system, efforts to make out-of-hospital care more integrated into the continuum of healthcare service delivery and to integrate EMS into the public health infrastructure.

For over 30 years, General Devices has been the leader in providing products and solutions for connecting EMS prehospital care providers with emergency medicine in the hospital and beyond. General Devices firmly believes advanced communication technology (telemedicine) in the EMS mobile setting is an important and necessary component for advancing EMS and Community Paramedicine synergistically within the changing healthcare environment.

The ability for EMS to provide higher quality coordinated healthcare, implement the necessary telemedicine technology and to take on these new roles is greatly limited by the current reimbursement policy that emphasizes transport. We are proud to support the Task Force's efforts to realign financial incentives in out-of-hospital care to help unlock a vast potential for EMS to contribute to improving the public health while lowering costs.

General Devices is the developer of the first city-wide EMS telemedicine in the country, and participates on federal committees charged with defining the technology that will advance and facilitate these new models of prehospital care. As such, General Devices is willing to commit its expertise in assisting the Task Force in its endeavors.

We would like to thank the members of the Task Force for beginning a regional dialogue about the potential for prehospital care to contribute more than it does today. We would encourage other organizations, including hospital systems, public and private payers of healthcare, and government regulators to engage in this important discussion about the potential benefits of expanding the role that prehospital care systems play in our society.

Sincerely,

Curt Bashford
President

1000 River Street, Ridgefield, NJ 07657
201.313.7075 (Fax) 201.313.5671
www.general-devices.com
info@general-devices.com

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