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Center for Patient Safety Partners with National Provider of EMS Services

- Agreement with Paramedics Plus Provides Support to Increase Learning about Patient Safety and Reducing Harm to Patients -

JEFFERSON CITY, MO (November 10, 2014) — Improved patient care, reduced harm and potential cost-savings are the results expected from an agreement announced today by the Center for Patient Safety (CPS), a not-for-profit organization certified as a federally-designated Patient Safety Organization (PSO), and East Texas Medical Center EMS (ETMC EMS) and Paramedics Plus, an EMS management operation that treats and transports a half-million patients annually in four states.

“The collection, analysis and collaboration resulting from the partnership is a step forward for CPS to learn more about safety issues and integrate that learning with other EMS, acute, ambulatory and long-term care providers that work with the CPS”, said Becky Miller, Executive Director of the Center.

Ron Schwartz, vice president of East Texas Medical Center (ETMC) EMS and president of Paramedics Plus said “participating with the PSO, ETMC EMS and Paramedics Plus further bolsters our commitment to being a learning organization. We are excited to be able to continue to improve upon patient and community safety. And as a PSO participant, we are helping advance safety in EMS”.

Trends involving lapses in and opportunities to improve EMS care can more quickly come to light through wider participation, now including ETMC EMS and Paramedics Plus along with the 371 other health care providers who obtain PSO services from CPS.

For example, Lee Varner, EMS Project Manager for CPS said, “CPS recently issued industry alerts about stretcher safety and medication administration issues identified through event reporting. Through reporting of such events from a wider network of EMS providers, we can identify trends faster and provide industry solutions sooner,” Varner said. In addition, “Our participants want to learn about risk and prevent events from occurring in their communities, Paramedics Plus should be congratulated for taking this step forward”.

Rodney Dyché, director of corporate training for Paramedics Plus, added the CPS platform will allow them to collect data, encourage self-reporting of adverse incidents and allow for a deeper analysis as well as sharing with other EMS professionals to address safety issues before they happen.

"We want all of our communities to know we take safety seriously," Dyché said. "The value of this affiliation with the CPS to our organization is really incalculable, and we believe it will decrease the cost and increase the safety as well as be the standard of care for EMS services".

About CPS:

The Center for Patient Safety is a private, not-for-profit corporation founded by the Missouri Hospital Association, the Missouri State Medical Association and Primaris. The Center's vision is "a health care environment safe for all patients and health care providers, in all processes, all the time" with a mission "to be a leader in providing solutions and resources to improve patient safety and the quality of health care delivery". Find the Center on [Facebook](#) and Twitter [@PtSafetyExpert](#).

About ETMC EMS and Paramedics Plus:

ETMC EMS has been providing ambulance services in East Texas since 1968. Today ETMC EMS provides coverage in 15 Texas counties (including the cities of Pasadena, Waco and Tyler) covering more than 15,000 square miles. (<http://www.etmc.org/ems/>). Formed in 1998, Paramedics Plus is an EMS system management organization that offers a full range of staffing and leadership options for large-scale paramedic ambulance services. Headquartered in Tyler, Texas, the company also operates Sunstar Paramedics in Clearwater, Florida, Three Rivers Ambulance Authority in Fort Wayne Indiana, and Paramedics Plus in Alameda County, California. Recently the company was awarded the EMS contract in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. In all, ETMC EMS and Paramedics Plus ambulance services are responsible for transporting more than a half a million patients annually in four states. (www.paramedicsplus.com)