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Local EMS personnel recognized by state

11/3/2007 9:37 AM
By: Britt Godshalk

COLONIE, N.Y. -- One minute paramedics are enjoying a quiet fall day. And the next, they are on the move.



A car has flipped and its driver is inside.

Quick yet thoughtful decisions must be made.

“We are providing care here and finding new ways of providing care here that is not being done in the rest of New York state,” said Michael Dailey, Regional Emergency Medical Organization Medical Director

Doctor Michael Dailey is the medical director for the organization that oversees our region’s paramedics. He was recently recognized by the state along with Bob Elling who teaches many local paramedics.



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They say forward thinking in emergency medicine is a team effort.

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EMS pros get state recognition

One minute paramedics are enjoying a quiet fall day. And the next, they are on the move. A car has flipped and its driver is inside. Quick yet thoughtful decisions must be made.



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“The docs in our ER’s are very involved and very interested in moving things forward,” says Elling, “We have really aggressive protocols and they’re willing to try new things.”

In fact Elling was willing to try it out himself on a 12 lead EKG. Think of it as a regular EKG in high def.

“Because we are looking at the heart from 12 different angles we actually get a much better idea of what’s happening in the heart,” said Dailey.

So if a patient at a scene had a heart attack, paramedics can use the 12 lead EKG to get much more information about what’s going on inside the patient’s heart, long before they get to the hospital.

“If our paramedics diagnose heartache in the field they can call our emergency department who will then notify cardiologists, and then those interventional cardiologists will come to the emergency departments before the patient even arrives,” said Dailey.

“Time is muscle, as the time is ticking you are losing more and more of your heart muscle,” said Elling.

This can lead to more and more pain.

Which is why Dailey's team worked with state narcotics enforcement and the state EMS board to create a new protocol allowing paramedics to give pain medicine to *certain patients without talking to a physician first.

Dailey says it’s reduced the amount of time it takes for patients to get pain medicine by up to 25 percent.

The pain in the neck often comes when digging through municipal



budgets to fund all of this.

The key, Dailey says, is keeping an eye on what's on the medical horizon.

“We have to think financially ahead of time, we have to think operationally ahead of time, we have to make sure what we're doing is planning prudently,” said Dailey.

Because preparation, he says, can mean better outcomes down the road.



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