



ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Scott Harris, M.D., M.P.H.
State Health Officer



October 8, 2019

John E. Blue, II, Regional Director
East Alabama EMS
P.O. Box 700
Lincoln, AL 35096

Re: Education and Ground Level Falls (GLFs) Trauma Entry Change

Dear Mr. Blue:

As you know, trauma system entry criteria for GLFs changed earlier this year. When you meet with hospital contacts in your Region, please continue to make them aware of the recent GLF system entry change. Injuries associated with GLFs are most often isolated trauma, which do not meet trauma system entry criteria. Emergency Medical Services Personnel can still enter GLFs into the Alabama Trauma System, but hospitals cannot. Hospitals should transfer GLF patients using their usual transfer process, if needed.

Michael Minor, Birmingham Regional EMS Director, has reported that some hospital staff across the state are unaware of the GLF system entry change. When the Alabama Trauma Communications Center (ATCC) communicators advise hospitals that they need to handle GLF transfers using their usual transfer process, the hospital staff often hang up before the communicator can offer further assistance. ATCC is willing to help hospitals find an acceptable facility, if they need assistance in coordinating a transfer.

I appreciate all that you do to support and improve emergency medical services and Acute Health Systems in your Region.

Sincerely,

William Crawford, M.D., FACEP
State EMS Medical Director

WC/SW/AF