REGIONAL PARAMEDIC PROGRAM FOR EASTERN ONTARIO

SERVING TOGETHER

MEDICAL ADVISORY

NUMBER: 2010 001

TO: All RPPEO Paramedics

DATE: February 3rd, 2010

ISSUE: When patient condition is unclear

When faced with a situation in which the patient's medical condition is unclear or uncertain (e.g CHF versus pneumonia versus COPD exacerbation) the best course of treatment for the patient is BLS care and rapid transport to the nearest appropriate medical facility.

An inappropriate medication or procedure can have a negative effect on the patient (ASA for a patient with an AAA, hemorrhagic stroke). If you are unsure of what you are treating, rapid transport is the priority. In cases where usual treatment is withheld, ensure the rationale for doing is well documented.

Patching to a BHP can be done for further advice or assistance.