Reviewer’s report

Title: The impact of shorter prehospital transport times on outcomes in patients with abdominal vascular injuries.

Version: 1 Date: 15 September 2013

Reviewer: Sandy Widder

Reviewer’s report:

Major Compulsory Revisions:
Realize that some of these revisions may not be answerable given the nature of the review (retrospective), and limitations with documentation.

1) INTRODUCTION: Commented on “alteration in the regional urban prehospital transport system”, are you able to provide more details? Were there any changes in the EMS/ pre-hospital protocols in addition to the mentioned consolidation? Is training and certification the same geographically?

2) MATERIAL AND METHODS: What is meant by “complete oversight and direction was provided by the departments of Surgery and Emergency Medicine”, could you please provide some details in any of the clinical or process changes that were made? What are some of the current protocols that exist?

3) RESULTS: Paragraph 1 noted that there was a statistically significant decrease in pre hospital transport times. Were other parameters looked at such as: Were scene times looked at in addition to the transport times? Although transport times were shorter, if there was an increase in scene times, may have contributed to mortality? Were times from emergency call to dispatch looked at? Also, times from dispatch to scene arrival?

When looking at the mortality rates between eras 1 and 2, were these immediate mortalities, later, or within 30 days of hospital stay? Please specify.

4) DISCUSSION: Although pre-hospital times is a quality marker, were there any other quality measures that could be improved pre-hospital that may have potentially affected outcome, i.e. prehospital administration of TXA? Adequate IV access? Use of tourniquets?

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.
Declaration of competing interests:

No to all of above. I declare that I have no competing interests.