



Eastern Ontario Wardens' Caucus

## Briefing/Speaking Note

### Land Ambulance Response Time Standard

AMO CONFERENCE 2009

**Issue:**

The Ambulance Act was amended in 2008 to change the way municipalities report response times. This decision requires that municipalities monitor their response times based on the paramedic's initial assessment of patient acuity.

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care maintains control over the land ambulance dispatch centres. The dispatching centres use a system that does not record the initial level of acuity.

It is impossible for municipalities to report a benchmarking response time to different levels of patient acuity, without accurate data from the Ministry's dispatching centres.

**Action Requested:**

The EOWC firmly supports the position of AMO with the joint effort to change the response time standard. We believe, as does AMO, that the legislation needed to be updated from the old 1996 standard.

The EOWC is very concerned that the current dispatch system does not allow for the capture of the initial patient acuity level. Therefore, we do not have the data to make informed recommendations related to the new response time standards. The land ambulance dispatch centres that are controlled by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care need to track and record the initial patient acuity upon arrival of paramedics.

The EOWC urges the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care to implement a dispatching system that will allow timely and accurate reporting of data, such that municipalities can meet the new legislated response time standards.