

UConn's Primary Service Area Responder

By: Nicole Dube, Principal Analyst
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Issue

Will the recent merger of emergency medical services (EMS) departments at UConn Health Center and UConn change where patients needing emergency care are transported? For example, will a person injured in Willimantic be transported to John Dempsey Hospital in Farmington?

UConn Primary Service Area Responder

By law, a primary service area is a specific geographic area to which the Department of Public Health (DPH) assigns a designated EMS provider for each category of EMS. These providers are called primary service area responders or PSARs.

According to DPH, the department is currently processing UConn's application to merge its EMS services at UConn Health Center and UConn so that both fall under the same license. As part of this merger, UConn changed its medical control hospital from Windham Hospital to John Dempsey Hospital effective November 27, 2017. This change was made so that EMS staff can be shared between the two EMS services and receive the same medical control training. According to DPH, noted that UConn's PSAR will continue to transport patients to the closest hospital irrespective of this change.

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