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Dear Greater NY Hospital Association Colleague,

I hope this message finds you well. I wish the same, of course, for the homeless individuals, living on our streets, for whose safety we are already preparing our Cold Weather Emergency protocols. (Snow is predicted for tomorrow night.) In FY11, with your help, *no homeless individual died of hypothermia*. It is only with your continued vigilance that we will see this result, again. As in past years, we have two special requests.

1. **During Cold Weather Emergencies, when temperatures dip below freezing, please allow both ready-to-be-discharged and unregistered, homeless people to remain in your ED waiting room overnight.**
2. During Cold Weather Emergencies, please keep in mind that chronically street homeless individuals, fitting one or more of the following descriptions, below, are at highest risk of cold weather injury and death. The broad criteria are:
 - Alcohol-dependent (actively drinking)
 - Suffering from heart disease
 - > Age 45
 - Men and/or anyone over the age of 60
 - Anyone with a previous cold weather injury (frostbite or amputated toes, hospitalization for hypothermia)
 - Hispanic, male, alcohol-dependent, and below the age of 40.

For any street homeless individual, meeting the above criteria, please leave a message with your borough's Outreach Team, with details as to where the patient is likely to be found. A contact grid is attached, for your use and reference. This will enable the team to try to find and engage the person in services.

We cannot succeed, fully, during a Cold Weather Emergency or, at any other time, without your help. Thank you for all of your efforts on behalf of all homeless individuals.

Sincerely,

Dova Marder, MD