

Emergency chief endorses changes

By Donna E. Boller
Staff Writer

The controversial head of Maryland's emergency medical system told Carroll County Ambulance Association members two things they wanted to hear last night: He wants to upgrade cardiac rescue technicians to paramedic status and abolish limits on skills they are allowed to use.

Dr. Kimball I. Maull, chief of the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS), met with ambulance association members at the Carroll Emergency Operations Center in Westminster.

He endorsed changes in the rules of the state's emergency rescue service but declined to specify when he wanted them put in place.

The changes would allow cardiac rescue technicians to insert tracheal tubes to open a patient's airways, an emergency procedure they are now forbidden to perform but which Dr. Maull characterized as critically important.

He also endorsed the abolition of limits on emergency treatment skills that prospective Maryland paramedics learn as part of a national study curriculum but are barred from using in this state.

Dr. Maull has been involved in controversy since he came to his present job in February.

He took over direct control of the Maryland Shock Trauma Center and became embroiled in a public feud with a group of doctors who were accused of diverting patient fees.

In the face of accusations that he wants to divert emergency patients from other hospitals to the Shock Trauma Center, Dr. Maull gave up day-to-day oversight of the Trauma Center in August. He appointed Dr. Richard L. Alcorta acting director of the state's emergency medical system.

The MIEMSS chief told Carroll ambulance company members that he wants to end jurisdictional disputes that create a patchwork of rules on what emergency medical technicians can do at the scene of an

accident and while transporting patients.

He said he would establish a statewide protocol to govern emergency care.