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THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
SOUTHWESTERN MEDICAL CENTER
AT DALLAS

Brian S. Zachariah, M.D.
Assistant Professor

Division of Emergency Medicine

December 16, 1997

Mr. Steve Badolato
President, Hartwell Medical Corporation
6352 Corte del Abeto, Suite J
Carlsbad, California 92009-1408

Dear Mr. Badolato:

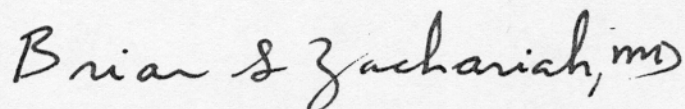
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Hartwell's line of EMS products (vacuum splints and mattresses). As you know I've had the chance to evaluate Hartwell's existing products, as well as new product ideas under development, several times over the last few years. I've always been very favorably impressed, not only with the products themselves but with your willingness to respond to the needs of the prehospital community.

Several of our thirteen EMS provider agencies currently utilize the Evac-U-Splint mattress and I believe all are very happy with its performance. Personally I feel that in many ways its use is superior to immobilization with a standard wooden spine board.

I make it a practice not to endorse any specific product, nor even to specify brand-names etc. for purchase by my own EMS agencies. However, I will share with you that I carry an Evac-U-Splint mattress and a set of vacuum splints in my response vehicle. I have always been happy with their ease of use and degree of immobilization.

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Brian S. Zachariah, MD
Chief, EMS Section
Division of Emergency Medicine