January 24, 2019

Statement from Hennepin Healthcare

In the spirit of transparency and continuous learning, Hennepin Healthcare System is releasing the results of independent external and internal reviews of the use of sedation by Emergency Medical Services and its Institutional Review Board’s (IRB) research review and approval processes. These reviews were conducted by highly credentialed bioethicists, and respected medical and legal professionals.

Hennepin Healthcare System understands and acknowledges community concern around this research. We can and must do better. While our external reviewers found that the use of pre-hospital sedation (the use of Ketamine) was consistent with medical standards and that the IRB and associated research did not pose a significant risk to the health and safety of patients, there is room for changes and there are areas for improvement. It is clear that better communication and engagement with the community around research and medical studies like this one are needed and we are committed to that.

In keeping with our mission, our goal was, and still is, to bring the benefits of an access to scientifically valid medical studies to all of the communities we serve and partner with.