

## **DOH WANTS TO GO METRIC**

The above header was on a recent article in Crain's Health Pulse newsletter reporting on a NYS DOH task force looking into ways to standardize hospital and emergency care for children. The group is headed by Dr. Arthur Cooper, who is described as a "longtime Harlem Hospital Center pediatrician. Dr. Cooper is actually a pediatric trauma surgeon, Director of Pediatric Surgical Services at Harlem, a member and past Chair of the NYC Regional EMS Council, a past Chair of the NYS EMS Council, received an EMS For Children Lifetime Achievement Award in 2010 and is an internationally recognized authority in the pediatric field.

The group's proposals include requiring that caregivers use the metric system in weighing patients and in writing prescriptions ensuring greater accuracy and precision in dosing for children which is important for smaller size children. Another proposed change would set a minimum level of pediatric patient volume, likely 200 patients a year, as a benchmark for a hospital being allowed to provide inpatient care for children. Hospitals that do not treat that many children would have to transfer pediatric cases. The full report is on the DOH web page at

[http://www.health.ny.gov/facilities/public\\_health\\_and\\_health\\_planning\\_council/meetings/2013-02-07/](http://www.health.ny.gov/facilities/public_health_and_health_planning_council/meetings/2013-02-07/)