




# Alternative Destination for EMS

CHAPTER:	1000	Number:	2010	REVIEWED:	6/6/2023
REPLACES:	7/14/2019		ENACTED:	7/14/2019	
Revised/Reviewed:	6/6/2023		NEXT REVIEW:	6/30/2026	
APPROVED:			Joe Hoffman, Medical Program Director		
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## I. Purpose:

This document establishes the foundation and procedure for alternate destinations for EMS patients other than emergency departments.

Authority: SHB 1721

## II. Policy:

EMS personnel may transport patients in crisis to alternate destinations instead of hospital emergency departments. These alternate centers must be capable and willing to accept pre-hospital transports. A center's willingness to receive such patients must be communicated to the medical program director.

Potential alternate facilities may include but are not limited to:

- Crisis center
- Domestic violence shelter
- Homeless shelter
- Detoxification center
- Behavioral health triage
- Urgent Care

A patient in crisis may include:

- Mental health issue
- Victims of domestic violence
- Substance use
- Homeless
- Experience grief/loss
- Sex trafficking



### III. Procedure:

- A. Once a person in crisis has been identified and there is intent to transport that patient to an alternate destination, a detailed history and physical exam will be performed. The elements of that history and physical will be documented on the patient care report (PCR).
  
- B. The patient will need to meet the inclusion and exclusion criteria for an alternate destination.
  1. **Inclusion**
    - a. Age less than or at 55-years-old
    - b. No serious chronic medical conditions
    - c. Not taking medications that require laboratory monitoring (Warfarin/Coumadin, Dilantin/Phenytoin, Valproic acid/Depakote, Tegretol/Carbamazepine),
    - d. Blood pressure less than 210/120
  2. **Exclusion**
    - a. Overdose within the last 12 hours
    - b. Current withdrawal from drugs or alcohol
    - c. First-time delirium or psychosis
  
- C. Contact the intended center early to determine if the facility can accept the patient.
  1. If the intended facility cannot accept the patient, transport to the nearest appropriate emergency department.
  
- D. Complete PCR for the patient and provide it to the center within 24 hours.

Signature: 

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# 2010 Alternative Destination for EMS.Approval 6.6.2023

Final Audit Report


2023-06-07

Created:	2023-06-07
By:	Tamarah Hoffman (tamhoffman@comcast.net)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAALioVn6wNbxA-VYII5gWzHb__1r1WXp5x

## "2010 Alternative Destination for EMS.Approval 6.6.2023" History

 Document created by Tamarah Hoffman (tamhoffman@comcast.net)

2023-06-07 - 6:18:07 PM GMT- IP address: 73.254.37.5

 Document emailed to Jeff Faucett (jfaucett@skfr.org) for signature

2023-06-07 - 6:18:32 PM GMT

 Email viewed by Jeff Faucett (jfaucett@skfr.org)

2023-06-07 - 8:24:01 PM GMT- IP address: 64.146.143.130

 Document e-signed by Jeff Faucett (jfaucett@skfr.org)

Signature Date: 2023-06-07 - 8:24:49 PM GMT - Time Source: server- IP address: 64.146.143.130

 Agreement completed.

2023-06-07 - 8:24:49 PM GMT