





Patient Transportation Guidelines

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APPROVED:			Joe Hoffman, Medical Program Director		
APPROVED:			Jeff Faucett, Chair		

I. Purpose:

To ensure that all patients are transported to the closest, most appropriate facility capable of meeting the patient's needs.

II. Policy:

Major trauma patients will be identified in the initial EMS field assessment using the most current State of Washington Trauma Triage (Destination) Procedures as published by the Washington State Department of Health. Accordingly, stroke and cardiac arrest patients will be transported to the appropriate facility based on the Washington State Stroke and Cardiac Care guidelines.

III. Procedure:

A. Medical and injured patients who do not meet State of Washington Pre-Hospital Trauma Triage (Destination) Procedures for trauma system activation or do not fall under the stroke or cardiac care guidelines will be transported in accordance with the following principles.

1. Pre-hospital care providers should transport unstable patients to the nearest receiving facility capable of accepting the patient.
2. Patients requiring specialized care should be transported to the nearest receiving facility able to provide such care. Examples include but are not limited to hyperbaric medicine.
3. Pre-hospital care providers will contact online medical control when assistance is needed in determining the appropriate receiving facility.



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4. Pre-hospital care providers will contact the receiving facility and provide a complete report regarding the patient's status and consult with the receiving facility physician when necessary.
5. Pre-hospital care providers respect the patient's right to choose a hospital destination and will make reasonable efforts to ensure that the right is preserved. Factors influencing patient choice may include but are not limited to:
 - a. Personal physician's affiliation
 - b. HMO or preferred provider
 - c. Personal preference
6. Pre-hospital care providers may modify the patient's request if transport to the patient's choice of receiving facility would deplete system resources and alternative medical transport is not available.
7. Patients may be transported to a non-receiving facility if the following parameters are followed:
 - a. If the patient's injury or illness does not require transport to an appropriate receiving facility AND the patient requests transport to a non-receiving facility, the crew may accommodate the patient's request after communicating directly with the Medical Control physician to receive approval for the request.
 - b. The patient's destination must be contacted prior to transport and agree to receive the patient.

NOTE: A receiving facility is designated by Washington State and able to provide patient care for a 24-hour period.

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Final Audit Report


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