

Interfacility/Interregional Ground Transport Policy

Purpose:

To provide consistent guidelines to Region 6 EMS agencies/providers and hospital personnel for interfacility/interregional transports.

Note:

This policy assumes that all EMS agencies/providers that provide interfacility/interregional transports have had System specific training for such transports.

Policy:

1. An attending physician, Emergency Department physician, or physician designee will authorize or request interfacility transports.
2. The transferring physician or physician designee will determine the appropriate receiving facility.
3. The transferring physician or physician designee will receive confirmation of acceptance of the patient from the receiving facility and the receiving physician or physician designee.
4. It is the responsibility of the transferring physician or physician designee to indicate what level of service and care is required for the transport based on the severity/complexity of the patient condition.
5. EMS agencies providing interfacility transports may only function to their level of licensure as defined by the National EMS Education Standards and Department regulations unless otherwise stated in this policy.
6. Any patient requiring care at a level higher than the highest level of prehospital care provider available must be transported with an RN or other appropriate professional personnel.
7. Prior to the transport, EMS providers must obtain written orders from the transferring physician or physician designee for all fluids and/or medications being transferred with the patient. EMS providers may only administer/monitor fluids and medications listed within this policy and their EMS System protocols.

Online Medical Control:

Medical Control (MC) may be defined as either the EMS Medical Director, the transferring or receiving MD and as a last resort the ED physician of the transferring or receiving hospital.

In any situation that the EMS Provider needs to contact a physician for medical direction, they will first attempt to contact the transferring MD or the receiving MD. If unable to reach either one, the EMS MD can be contacted. As a last resort, use on-line medical control at the sending or receiving facility. Any orders from on-line medical control will supersede written orders.

If the EMS Provider is unable to contact the receiving or sending facility, the EMS Provider will follow their EMS System protocols until contact can be established. In a situation when medical control is unreachable and intervention is necessary, the transport team will divert to the nearest appropriate medical facility.

Considerations for Transport:

Any Region 6 agency reserves the right to deny transport under the following conditions:

1. If providing the interfacility transport will impede the ability for the agency to provide 911 response within their response area due to staffing or equipment.
2. If it is deemed the patient is not stable enough for ground transport after consultation with the Medical Director or Medical Control.
3. If the safety of the patient and crew is at significant risk (i.e. weather, road conditions, violent patient, etc.).
4. Patients in active labor (when birth is imminent).
5. Active CPR in progress.

Requesting Additional Personnel:

When the EMS provider anticipates that they will require more assistance to appropriately care for the patient during transfer, they shall request the transferring physician/health care provider to provide appropriately trained hospital staff to accompany the patient and assist. The EMS provider must contact Medical Control for medical direction in all situations where they are not comfortable with the circumstances of the transfer. **The transfer will not occur unless the EMS provider and MC are confident the personnel and equipment are appropriate for transfer.**

Levels of EMS Interfacility Transports

Basic Life Support (BLS) interfacility transport

Minimum staffing: 2 EMT-Basic providers

Includes basic airway management, cardiopulmonary resuscitation including the use of AED's, basic shock management and control of bleeding, basic fracture management and medications within the EMS System's BLS protocols.

Basic providers may also transport patients with the following:

- Foley catheters
- Gastric devices (i.e., NG tubes, G tubes, ostomy equipment)
- Saline locks
- Wound drains
- Clamped Vascular devices (i.e., Central lines, Groshong catheters, PIC lines)*
***May not be accessed by Basic providers**

AEMT/Intermediate Life Support (ILS) interfacility transport

Minimum staffing: 1 AEMT/Intermediate and 1 EMT-Basic

Includes all BLS services, cardiac monitoring, IV cannulation/fluid therapy, advanced airway management and medications within the EMS System's AEMT/ ILS protocols.

ILS providers may also transport patients with the following:

- CPAP / BiPAP
- IV infusion pumps

Advanced Life Support (ALS) interfacility transport

Minimum staffing: 1 EMT-Paramedic or Prehospital RN and 1 EMT-Basic

Includes all BLS and ILS services, cardiac monitoring (including cardiac pacing, manual defibrillation, and cardioversion) and administration/monitoring of medications within the EMS System's ALS protocols:

ALS providers may also transport the following additional fluids and medications:

All crystalloid and colloid solutions	Insulin drip (non-titratable)
Acetadote	Isoproteronol
Blood and Blood products (already initiated)	Ketorolac
IIb/IIIa glycoprotein inhibitors (Aggrastat, Reopro, Integrilin)	Labetalol (drip only)
Antibiotics	Levophed
Atenolol	Lorazepam
Calcium chloride	Mannitol
Calcium gluconate	Metoprolol (drip only)
Cardene (drip only)	Nifedipine (tabs)
Dexamethasone sodium phosphate	Nitroglycerine drip
Diazepam	Oxytocin
Dobutamine	Octreotide
Fentanyl drip	Phenobarbital (drip only)
Fosphenytoin	Potassium (no faster than 10 mEq/hr)
Heparin drip	Pralidoxime chloride
Hydralazine	Propranolol (drip only)
Hydrocortisone sodium succinate	Protonix
Hydroxyzine	Racemic epinephrine
	Sodium nitroprusside
	Vitamin K (already initiated)

ALS providers may also transport patients with the following:

- Pain medication pumps
- Femoral artery sheaths
- Chest tubes with written physician orders. If mechanical suction, the amount of mechanical suction must be specified.

One additional appropriately licensed healthcare provider in the patient compartment is required for the following:

All intubated patients **(Does not apply to stable ventilator dependent trach patients)**

****If not listed above or in the EMS System's protocols, a Registered Nurse is required to accompany the patient during transfer/transport.**

April 2005

Last Revised: April 2021