

**SUBJECT:** HOSPITAL STATUS REPORTING GUIDELINES  
**REVISED:** FEBRUARY 12, 2010

**SECTION:** 302.14  
**PAGE(S):** 2

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## PURPOSE

The purpose of these Hospital Status Reporting Guidelines is to facilitate the timely communication about a hospital's emergency department status and the hospital's request that EMS inform patients that another medical facility may be better prepared to administer emergency care appropriate to the patients' needs.

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## DEFINITIONS

- A. **Normal:** the hospital's emergency department and supporting resources are operating normally.
- B. **At Capacity:** the hospital has determined that its emergency department and supporting resources are fully committed.
- C. **Over-Capacity:** the hospital has determined that its emergency department and the emergency department's supporting resources are over-committed
- D. **Closed:** the hospital has activated its disaster plan because of an internal emergency, bomb threat, or situation rendering it unable to accept patients.

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## ROUTING DECISIONS

EMS personnel will continue to transport patients to a hospital reporting itself to be At Capacity or Over-Capacity under the following circumstances:

1. The patient is unstable including, but not limited to: having an unmanageable airway, being given CPR, or having uncontrolled internal or external hemorrhaging; (no trauma center may be At Capacity or Over-Capacity for trauma patients);
2. The hospital At Capacity or Over-Capacity has the specific services the patient needs (e.g., the patient is an OB patient, has major burns, or needs hyperbaric oxygen);
3. The patient is an ALS level patient and bypassing the hospital reporting itself At Capacity or Over-Capacity would mean a transport time of greater than 15 additional minutes; or
4. EMS personnel have advised the patient that the patient's preferred hospital is At Capacity or Over-Capacity and the patient still wishes to be transported to the requested hospital.

In these situations, as soon as possible, after determining that the squad will be going to a hospital reporting itself At Capacity or Over-Capacity, the transporting unit will

make reasonable efforts to notify that hospital that it will be receiving a patient and to describe the patient's condition.

**No trauma center may report itself At Capacity or Over-Capacity for trauma patients.**

**During a mass-casualty incident, hospitals to which squads would be transporting victims from the incident may not report themselves At Capacity or Over-Capacity.**

## **PROCEDURE**

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Hospital status will be monitored by Hamilton County Dispatch.

Hospital status should also be monitored via the Health Council's Hospital Status web page by the on-duty unit.

Fire department personnel should check with the dispatcher on EMS calls to check the status of hospitals. If the hospital that is requested is At Capacity or Over Capacity, notify the patient of the hospital's status (exceptions are noted above). Document on the patient care report the patient's initial request of hospital destination and the reason for the change.

Dispatcher will remind the squad en-route to a hospital on the hospital's status.