

SUBJECT: PATIENT DESTINATION	SECTION: 302.10
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PURPOSE

- A. To assure patient hospital preference is respected unless such preference would jeopardize patient outcome.
- B. To assure trauma patients are transported to the appropriate Trauma Center.

POLICY

The patient (or the patient's Power-of-Attorney for Healthcare) has the right to make an informed decision as to hospital destination. The patient's decision to be transported to a hospital of choice should be respected unless the risk of transport to a more distant hospital of choice outweighs the medical benefits of transporting to the nearest hospital. A trauma patient may benefit from transport directly to the closest appropriate Level 1 Trauma Center rather than the closest geographically located hospital.

PROCEDURE

- A. An ambulance patient should be transported to the nearest appropriate hospital unless the patient (or parent of the patient less than 18 years of age) expresses a specific hospital preference. Patients should be transported to a hospital within the State of Ohio.
- B. Bypassing the nearest hospital to respect the patient's hospital choice is a medical decision based on medical benefits and associated risks and should be made in accordance with:
 - 1. Urgency of care and risk factors, based on:
 - a. Mechanism of Injury (Physiologic factors)
 - b. Perfusion Status and Assessment (Anatomic factors)
 - c. Transport distance and time (Environmental factors)
 - 2. On-line Medical Control
 - 3. Patient's hospital preference
 - 4. Patient's regular source of health care and hospitalization
 - 5. Capacity of nearest facility or facility of choice
 - 6. Available resources of the transporting agency
 - 7. Traffic and weather conditions
- C. The patient's hospital preference may be honored if there are no identifiable risk factors; the patient has a secure airway and is hemodynamically stable.

- D. All trauma patients will follow State of Ohio Trauma Triage Rules. Any trauma patient, who meets the State of Ohio Trauma Triage Rules, shall be transported to the Level I Trauma Center unless otherwise directed by Medical Control.
1. If a patient is unconscious and meets State of Ohio Trauma Triage Rules, the patient will be taken to the highest level Trauma Center available.
 2. If a patient has an altered/impaired level of consciousness and meets State of Ohio Trauma Triage Rules, the patient will be taken to the highest level Trauma Center available.
 3. If a patient is alert and oriented to person, place and time with stable vital signs, the patient will be taken to the hospital of his/her choice, except as defined above and only after consultation with Medical Control.
 4. If a family member (or another person) is at the scene of an emergency and can readily prove Durable Power of Attorney for Healthcare, he/she can request that the patient be taken to a specific hospital, except as defined above. Medical Control must be contacted for the final decision if the patient meets State of Ohio Trauma Triage Rules or there is obvious risk or potential need for stabilization at a nearer hospital.
 5. If a parent requests that a child less than 18 years of age, who meets State of Ohio Trauma Triage Rules, be taken to a specific hospital, Medical Control must be contacted for the final decision.