

TRAUMA TASK FORCE
DRAFT PROPOSED POLICY AND PROTOCOL-5/27/09
EMERGENCY INTERFACILITY TRANSFERS TRAUMA PATIENTS

DISTRIBUTION: All EMS Operations personnel and dispatchers.

PURPOSE: To establish guidelines regarding emergency inter-facility transfers of trauma patients.

POLICY: EMS agencies will treat trauma patients being transferred from one hospital to another for immediate treatment by a trauma center as an emergency transfer and immediately send the closest unit available.

PROCEDURE

1. When a request for an emergency transfer of a trauma patient comes in to the Dispatch center, the call taker should ask the caller if the patient is ready for pick-up at the time of request for transport (including paperwork completed and copied).
2. The closest unit should be dispatched immediately.
3. EMS units shall respond to the originating facility without the use of emergency lights and siren unless they are specifically requested.
4. A paramedic/ALS provider shall be in attendance with the patient when possible. In the event a patient develops an unmanageable life-threatening situation while en route, contact the closest hospital vs trauma center within 30 minutes transport time via air or ground and obtain orders and/or authorization to divert to that facility.
5. The EMS unit shall contact the receiving hospital and advise them of the estimated arrival time.