

## Transport Destination Decision

### Standard:

Define how a transport destination decision is reached, taking into consideration the specialized care needs of specific conditions and the needs and preferences of our patients.

### Purpose

Patients treated by the ATCEMS System may have complex clinical conditions that require care at facilities with specialized capabilities or expertise in treating these conditions. In the absence of the need for specialized care patients may want to be transported to facilities based on their personal preference or the location of their physician and records. Whenever possible the providers of the ATCEMS System will provide patients with transport to a prescribed medical facility of their preference.

### Application:

1. The following assumes the patient or the patient's legal guardian has decision making capacity in accordance with the Refusal of Treatment/Transportation Standard and the Determination of Capacity Procedure. In the absence of decision making capacity or in cases where consent is implied the patient should be transported to the closest appropriate facility. If a patient wishes to refuse treatment/transport but has been determined to lack the capacity to do so providers should consult their supervisor and online medical control in accordance with the Refusal of Treatment/Transportation Standard.
2. When a patient presents with a clinical condition requiring specialized care the transporting providers will transport the patient to the closest facility that offers the specialized care for that patient's condition. (STEMI, Stroke, Trauma, Resuscitation Center, Pediatric care, etc).
3. If a patient refuses to go to the recommended facility, transport providers will then explain the benefit of transport to the recommended facility and the risk of transport to another facility. If the patient still refuses transport to the recommended facility, transport providers will then recommend transport to the next closest appropriate facility for their condition.
4. If a patient continues to refuse transport to the alternative specialty care facility or requests transport to a facility that lacks the ability to care for the patient condition, the transport provider will make every effort to explain the need for the specialty care facility. These efforts may include but are not limited to contacting the patient's physician, a supervisor, on-call Medical Director or OLMC at the facility the patient wishes to be transported to.
5. If after the efforts described above the patient continues to request transport to a facility not recommended for the patient's condition the transport providers will transport the patient to the facility of the patient's choosing. They should notify their supervisor and the receiving facility of their transport. On arrival at the facility the crew should consult with the attending physician to determine if the patient will be transferred. If such a transfer is imminent the provider should contact their supervisor and remain immediately available to transfer the patient after the required screening examination by the receiving facility. The duration of this availability is to be determined by the supervisor based on the patient's condition and the anticipated time to transfer.
6. If a patient does not have a condition that requires transport to a specialized facility as prescribed by guideline, the providers will transport the patient to an approved system facility of the patient's choosing. When a patient requests transport to a facility other than an approved system facility, the transport decision should be made in consultation with a supervisor. If in the provider's opinion the patient's condition warrants transport to a closer facility for rapid stabilization the need for this destination should be explained to the patient and every effort made to deliver the patient to the closest appropriate facility. These efforts may include but are not limited to contacting a supervisor or online medical control. If the

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patient continues to refuse the recommended destination the patient will be advised of the associated risks and transported to the destination of their choosing.

7. If the patient has a memorandum of transfer or if transport has been arranged by another healthcare provider the transport provider should transport the patient to the destination indicated by the memorandum of transfer or sending healthcare provider in accordance with the memorandum Standard.
8. If the patient does not have a condition that requires specialty care as prescribed by guideline and does not have an expressed preference the transport provider may transport the patient to the closest appropriate facility.
9. In the event multiple patients from the same event are to be transported in one unit the patient with higher acuity determines the transport destination. Where the need for different facilities can be anticipated reasonable efforts should be made to split the patients at the scene as long as doing so does not place either patient in danger.
10. Any refusal of treatment or recommended transport destination should be performed and documented in accordance with the Refusal of Treatment/Transport Standard and Determination of Capacity Procedure.