

**Jackson County Medical Control Authority**  
**System Protocols**  
**TRANSPORT PROTOCOL**

Date: November 2020

Section 8-39

---

***Transport Protocol***

The purpose of this protocol is to insure that patients within the Jackson County MCA are taken to the appropriate medical facility.

**Procedure:**

- A. Services must follow the transport request ranking given below unless the patient is unstable or becomes unstable during transport:
1. Patient request
  2. Family request
  3. Patient's personal physician request

Request for transport to any participating MCA hospital will be honored by all ALS units approved within the MCA provided the patient is stable for transport. Requests for transport to hospitals outside of the MCA will be honored if medically appropriate.

- B. Should a patient expire during transport s/he should be transported to the closest appropriate medical facility in the county where the death occurred.
- C. Should a patient be unstable or become unstable during transport, he/she should be transported to the closest appropriate medical facility. For ALS units, the Medical Control physician has the authority to divert an unstable patient to the closest appropriate receiving facility.
- D. Appropriate medical facilities within the MCA will be hospitals, MCA approved 24/7 State licensed Free Standing Surgical Outpatient Facilities (FSOF), MCA approved Free Standing Emergency Departments (FSED) with 24 hour emergency services and for selected patients agency defined, MCA approved, alternative non-emergency facility (alternative destination).
1. Hospitals must have the following continuous capability:
    - a. Emergency medical services
    - b. Blood bank
    - c. Operating room
    - d. Critical Care capabilities
    - e. Communications compliant with JCMCA Communication Protocols.
  2. A Free-Standing Surgical Outpatient Facilities (FSOF) and Free Standing Emergency Departments (FSED) must have the following continuous capability:
    - a. MCA Hospital credentialed Emergency Physicians and nursing staff providing emergency services.
    - b. A medical director board certified in Emergency Medicine.
    - c. Communications compliant with JCMCA Communication Protocols
    - d. 24/7 lab capability
    - e. 24/7 radiology capability
    - f. Resuscitation and stabilization capability
  3. An alternative non-emergency facility (alternative destination) will be determined as follows:

**Jackson County Medical Control Authority**  
**System Protocols**  
**TRANSPORT PROTOCOL**

Date: November 2020

Section 8-39

- 
- a. Each EMS agency shall determine which destinations are appropriate for consideration as alternate destinations.
  - b. Alternative destinations do not need to operate 24/7, however EMS providers must be educated as to the facility hours and capabilities.
  - c. Agency determined alternative destinations must be submitted to the MCA for approval.
  - d. Patients considered for transport to an alternative destination must be approved by the alternative destination prior to transport.
  - e. Patients eligible for transport to an alternative destination are defined in the **Ambulance Transport to Alternative Destinations Protocol**.
- E. A patient may be transported to a FSOF/FSED if they are:
- 1. A Priority 3 patient who requests transport to the FSOF/FSED.
  - 2. A stable patient who is otherwise directed to the facility as part of another specialty protocol.
  - 3. A patient who is unstable for transport to an acute care facility where the FSOF can provide additional care not available in the ambulance (the primary example is a patient being transported by an ALS unit with an airway that cannot be secured or maintained by EMS personnel).
  - 4. A patient with minor injuries without high energy mechanism who requests transport to the FSOF/FSED.

Notification of patient transport will be made to the FSOF/FSED by radio. If on-line medical direction is needed or desired, contact the closest or designated medical control hospital.

- F. The **Transport Protocol** may be superseded by other specialty destination protocols within the Jackson County MCA under specific conditions, i.e., **High Risk Delivery Transport Guidelines, Adult and Pediatric Trauma Triage, AMI, Stroke Triage, etc.**
- G. Patient choice for specialty destination should be honored when possible. Transport time differences and patient condition should be factored into the destination decision. When the patient or family has a strong desire for a particular destination that does not fit the specialty protocol recommendation discuss the risk and benefit of the requested destination with the patient or family and if not able to change the patient or family choice the patient should be transported to the requested destination. Providers should never state that the patient cannot be transported to the requested destination. Contact on-line medical direction when the patient or family destination request is not supported by the transport or specialty transport protocol destination recommendation.