

Transport of Patients on Ventilators

Designation of Condition: Patients on ventilators being transported, either between healthcare facilities during Interfacility transfers or during emergency responses, by a paramedic transport service.

Immediately perform a thorough reassessment of the airway

- Visualize chest excursion and auscultate lung fields and epigastrium.
- Monitor pulse oximetry.
- Place a quantitative EtCO₂ detector device inline to continuously confirm proper placement of advanced airway and monitor for adequate ventilation.

Interfacility Transport

If the EMS transport unit is equipped with a ventilator that meets the needs of the patient, the patient may be placed on the EMS ventilator and monitored by the paramedic during transport.

If the EMS transport is not equipped with a ventilator, or if the EMS ventilator does not meet the needs of the patient, a trained provider from the transferring facility must accompany the transport paramedic to operate that facility's ventilator.

- If the referring facility is unable to send a trained healthcare provider to accompany the transport paramedic, the ventilator will be removed and the patient will be ventilated by [bag valve mask](#).
- In this event, a second licensed EMS provider will accompany the paramedic during the transport to monitor vital signs and assist as needed.
- Best practice is contact Albuquerque base to dispatch the CCT team for scene intercept for ventilator and sedation management.

If concerns arise regarding airway or ventilator status, the transport paramedic has final judgment regarding airway management.

Emergency Response

If a responding EMS provider is trained and the transport unit is equipped with a ventilator possessing multiple modes of ventilation, including [CPAP](#) or BiPAP, the ventilator may be utilized in any mode by a trained provider to manage the patient's airway and oxygenation/ventilation demands.

If the patient requires emergent transport then proceed with [BVM](#) and rapid transport. Otherwise consider CCT for any ventilated patient as remaining on the ventilator is best practice. If emergent transport and time allows for an intercept, contact CCT paramedic for ventilator management.

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