

# PATIENT TRANSPORT – CHICAGO FIRE DEPARTMENT

I. **DISPATCH:** In response to a request for prehospital care,

- A. The level of response to be dispatched will be determined by the Office of Emergency Communications personnel in accordance with approved Chicago Fire Department dispatch protocols.
- B. When possible, the caller should be informed when vehicle responses will exceed 6 minutes.

II. **TRANSPORT:**

- A. The patient will be transported to the nearest appropriate emergency department, unless advised otherwise by OLMC.
- B. At no time will advanced life support (ALS) care that was initially established be relinquished to a basic life support (BLS) service unless prior contact is made to and approval given by OLMC.

III. **Refusal of Transport to the Closest Appropriate Hospital** (see Consent/Refusal of Service Policy B.12) When the patient desires to be transported to a facility that is not the closest appropriate hospital:

- A. Determine:
  - 1. Need for ALS care.
  - 2. Need for immediate transport.
  - 3. Decision-making capacity of patient or presence of an individual who has durable power of attorney.
- B. Continue to stress need for transportation and risk of delay.
- C. Estimate the difference in ETA between requested destination and closest appropriate hospital.
- D. Contact OLMC and relate the closest appropriate and desired destinations and approximate transport times to each hospital.
  - 1. If only a small difference in transport time exists between the closest appropriate hospital and the desired destination, OLMC may authorize transport to the patient's requested destination rather than further delay care.
  - 2. If a large difference in transport time exists, the approach will vary depending upon patient's condition:
    - a. Patients Without Decision-Making Capacity: Patients who are not competent

to refuse care may not refuse transportation to the closest appropriate hospital.

- b. Patient With Decision-Making Capacity: Patient or family can arrange for private ambulance transport.
  - i. EMS personnel shall have patient sign release for damages that may be incurred due to delay in instituting transportation. Document discussions with the patient in the comment section of patient care report. If patient refuses transport, have the event witnessed.
  - ii. If a private ambulance is unavailable in a reasonable period of time and/or the requested destination is considered unreasonably distant, the patient will be required to accept transport to the closest appropriate facility or sign for refusal of care (see Consent/Refusal of Service Policy B.12).
  - iii. The patient may be transported to the requested facility at the discretion of the base station as appropriate.

E. If at any time the patient's condition deteriorates to where he/she may lose decision-making capacity:

1. Initiate appropriate care and stabilize patient.
2. Re-contact OLMC and relate reassessment and interventions.
3. Transport to the closest appropriate facility without delay.

#### **IV. Transferring care from CFD to Private provider:**

- A. CFD personnel are to remain on scene and administer care as required until care can be transferred to private ambulance personnel of the same or higher level of care.

#### **Attachment I: List of Hospitals with Comprehensive Emergency Departments**

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## HOSPITALS WITH COMPREHENSIVE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS

### HOSPITAL NAME

Christ Medical Center (Advocate)  
Community First Medical Center  
Holy Cross Hospital  
Illinois Masonic Medical Center (Advocate)  
Jackson Park Hospital & Medical Center  
Jesse Brown Veterans Administration Medical Center  
La Grange Memorial Hospital (Adventist)  
Little Company of Mary Hospital & Health Care Centers  
Loretto Hospital  
Loyola University Medical Center  
Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago (Ann & Robert H.) (Pediatrics Only)  
Lutheran General Hospital (Advocate)  
MacNeal Hospital  
Mercy Hospital & Medical Center  
Metro South Medical Center - Blue Island  
Mount Sinai Hospital  
Northwestern Memorial Hospital  
Norwegian American Hospital  
Resurrection Medical Center (Presence)  
Roseland Community Hospital  
Rush University Medical Center  
Saint Anthony Hospital  
Saint Bernard Hospital & Health Center  
Saint Francis Hospital - Evanston (Presence)  
Saint Joseph Hospital - Chicago (Presence)  
Saint Margaret (Franciscan) (Indiana)  
Saints Mary & Elizabeth Medical Center - St. Mary Campus ONLY (Presence)  
South Shore Hospital  
John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County  
Swedish Covenant Hospital  
Thorek Memorial Hospital  
Trinity Hospital (Advocate)  
University of Chicago Medical Center  
University of Illinois Hospital and Health Sciences System  
Weiss Memorial Hospital  
West Suburban Medical Center

NOTE: CFD does not transport to basic or standby emergency departments.