

TRANSPORT OF VETERAN PATIENTS TO VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTERS

- I. Patients who are military veterans often prefer to obtain their medical care at Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Centers. The VA Medical Centers within the Region XI transport area are the Jesse Brown VA and Hines VA.
- II. The following are VA Medical Center catchment areas. If the veteran is outside the catchment area, but the EMS provider feels it is appropriate to transport to a VA Medical Center, they should follow their department protocols for approval of the transport. VA Medical Center catchment areas:
 - A. Jesse Brown VA – Chicago Avenue to 31st St., Lake Michigan to Kedzie Ave.
 - B. Hines VA – Any veteran who would have been transported to Loyola University Medical Center or MacNeal Medical Center
- III. Patients who wish to be transported to the VA for medical care must self-identify as a veteran. No further confirmation of their veteran status is necessary in the field. If a patient is transported to a VA Medical Center who does not qualify for veteran benefits, the VA Medical Center will care for the patient in accordance with EMTALA statutes.
- IV. The Jesse Brown VA Medical Center and Hines VA Medical Center are Comprehensive Emergency Departments.
- V. Patients that meet Region XI Field Triage Criteria for transport to a STEMI, Stroke, Level I Trauma, or Obstetric Center should not be transported to a VA hospital. Additionally, pediatric patients should not be transported to a VA hospital.
- VI. If a patient is inadvertently brought to the VA with any of the above conditions for which the VA Medical Center is not equipped, the Region XI Interhospital/Interfacility Transport policy (C.26) may be enacted.

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