



ADVOCATE ILLINOIS MASONIC MEDICAL CENTER
JOHN H. STROGER JR. HOSPITAL OF COOK COUNTY
NORTHWESTERN MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
UCHICAGO MEDICINE

DATE: January 7, 2022

TO: Region 11 EMS Participating Hospitals
Emergency Department Directors
Chief Medical Officers
Chief Nursing Officers

FROM: **REGION 11 EMS MEDICAL DIRECTORS CONSORTIUM**

SUBJECT: **TRANSFER OF PATIENT CARE FROM EMS TO THE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT**

Dear Chicago Hospital and Emergency Department Leadership,

The Region 11 EMS Medical Directors are keenly aware of the current crushing demands on all of our Emergency Departments and hospital patient care areas. This unprecedented situation also extends to our EMS providers and has created operational challenges in transferring care of patients to your Emergency Department teams.

We ask that you please give immediate attention to the following:

- According to federal EMTALA regulations, once a patient arrives at a hospital Emergency Department they become the responsibility of the hospital and its staff, and a **transfer of patient care** is considered to have occurred, regardless of whether or not a gurney or wheelchair is immediately available for the physical transfer.
- Ambulances on hospital property cannot and will not be rerouted to another hospital for initial patient evaluation.
- For patients arriving with cardiac rhythm monitoring by EMS, the hospital staff's triage assessment and internal protocols should dictate if continued rhythm monitoring is necessary. Region 11 EMS Protocols require cardiac monitoring for a wide variety of conditions that may not be the same for 'in hospital' care (i.e. a 'monitored bed' might not be necessary in your Emergency Department).
- It is mandatory for EMS crews to transfer care to hospital staff, generate a patient care report (PCR), clean their equipment, and restock their supplies in a MAXIMUM of 60 minutes so that they can return to service. **Extended "wall times" or "ambulance offload delays" are not acceptable, and they create a potentially dangerous delay in responding to the next emergency.**

Please contact your Resource Hospital with questions.

Thank you for working together with us to serve the citizens of Chicago,

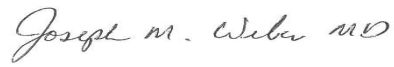
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