



<b>REGION 11 CHICAGO EMS SYSTEM POLICY</b>	Title: Patient Destination
	Section: Transportation
	Approved: EMS Medical Directors Consortium
	Effective: December 6, 2023

# PATIENT DESTINATION

## I. PURPOSE

To define the destination of a patient and selection of the receiving facility.

## II. DEFINITION

A. Closest Appropriate Facility: Closest facility with the capability to care for that patient and in the patient's best interest which is based on Systems of Care criteria, established medical care, or patient preference.

## III. POLICY

### A. Determination of Patient Destination

1. In any emergency situation, the patient should be transported by ambulance to the closest appropriate facility, as defined in the EMS Act.
2. After patient assessment, EMS should determine the closest appropriate facility for transport based on the following:
  - a. Patient meets criteria for hospital destination per Systems of Care Policy, including STEMI and Cardiac Arrest, Stroke, Trauma, VAD, Perinatal, and Pediatrics;
  - b. Patient has established medical care at a facility to maintain continuity of care; and
  - c. Patient preference
3. Patient preference and/or patient medical home may be taken into consideration if it does not conflict with Systems of Care criteria, if the patient is unstable, or if it is potentially detrimental to EMS system operations.
4. If the closest appropriate facility is on bypass or diversion status, EMS should follow the Hospital Diversion / Ambulance Bypass or Resource Limitation Policy.
5. Online Medical Control may be contacted for any questions or issues in determining the closest appropriate hospital.
6. If the patient/legal guardian refuses transport to the closest appropriate facility, EMS providers must follow these guidelines:
  - a. Make sure the patient/legal guardian is notified of and understands the risks and benefits of their decision to be transported to a facility other than the closest appropriate facility.
  - b. Document the patient/legal guardian's refusal of transport to the closest appropriate facility.
  - c. If the patient requires additional emergency care, remain with the patient at the



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- scene until additional EMS providers are available to transport the patient.
- d. The patient will be cared for at the highest level of care to meet their needs. The level of care is not downgraded due to the patient's refusal to be transported to the closest appropriate facility.

**B. Destination Facilities**

1. EMS may transport to EMS System approved locations including:
  - a. Hospitals with Comprehensive Emergency Department services (see Participating Hospital Responsibilities Policy)
  - b. Alternate destinations under pilot program status or as an interfacility transfer
    - i. Licensed mental health facilities
    - ii. Urgent or immediate care
  - c. Other field treatment locations, as approved, for special events
2. Patient destination location should be documented on the patient care report.