



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

DATE: December 6, 2023  
TO: Region 11 EMS Participating Hospitals  
FROM: **REGION 11 EMS MEDICAL DIRECTORS CONSORTIUM**  
SUBJECT: **REGION 11 CHICAGO EMS SYSTEM UPDATE FOR HOSPITAL DIVERSION/AMBULANCE BYPASS OR RESOURCE LIMITATION – EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 6, 2023**

In accordance with the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), Region 11 has updated its policy and process for Hospital Diversion/Ambulance Bypass and Resource Limitation. This update is to align with new IDPH bypass regulations, as well as the end of the declared Public Health Emergency of COVID-19. Region 11 and IDPH are keenly aware of the ongoing demands on the entire Chicago Healthcare System, therefore **we urge hospitals to exhaust all efforts to mitigate going on Hospital Diversion/Ambulance Bypass or Resource Limitation in an effort to protect and preserve the capacity of the system. Additionally, the expectation is that all Region 11 Participating Hospital Emergency Departments assist EMS providers in returning to service as soon as possible.**

Hospital decisions to go on ambulance diversion (bypass) should be based on:

- A significant resource limitation, an internal disaster, or an active threat; **AND**
- On meeting [IDPH criteria outlined in Section 515.315](#); **AND**
- In accordance with the [Region 11 Hospital Diversion/Ambulance Bypass or Resource Limitation Policy](#)

Outlined below is the updated process for notification of Hospital Diversion/Ambulance Bypass or Resource Limitation in Region 11:

1. Any status change (Bypass/Resource Limitation) decisions will be entered into the Illinois EMResource application, accessed at <https://emresource.juvar.com/login>. *Ensure your teams have updated EMResource login information.*
2. Hospitals will update their Hospital Diversion/Ambulance Bypass or Resource Limitation status every 2 hours in the EMResource system and make every effort to return to 'Open' status.
3. Notification must be made to the Chicago Office of Emergency Management and Communications (OEMC)/911 Center, your Resource Hospital, and the private ambulance provider agencies that serve your hospital.
4. The hospital is expected to be constantly working to lift the hospital diversion/ambulance bypass or resource limitation status as soon as possible.

Hospital Diversion/Ambulance Bypass or Resource Limitation status will **NOT** be deemed reasonable if hospitals in a geographic area are on 'Peak Census' or if the bypass status and/or transport time by an ambulance to the next nearest facility is identified to exceed 15 minutes.

IDPH will investigate the circumstances that caused a hospital to go on Hospital Diversion/Ambulance Bypass or Resource Limitation status to determine whether that hospital's decision was reasonable. IDPH has the authority to impose sanctions if a hospital unreasonably goes on Hospital Diversion/Ambulance Bypass or Resource Limitation status.

Please reference the following policies and regulations for further detail:

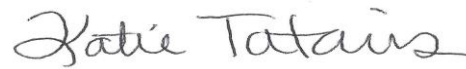
- [Section 515.315 IDPH Administrative Code for Bypass or Resource Limitation Status Review Section](#)
- [Region 11 EMS Hospital Diversion/Ambulance Bypass or Resource Limitation Policy](#)
- [Region 11 Participating Hospital Responsibilities Policy](#)

Please contact your Resource Hospital with any questions.

This update will require collaboration and thoughtful consideration across the Chicago Healthcare System and between our hospital and EMS partners. Thank you for working together with us to serve the citizens of Chicago.



Kenneth Pearlman, MD  
 Chair, Region 11 EMS Medical Directors Consortium  
 EMS Medical Director  
 Northwestern Memorial Hospital



Katie Tataris, MD, MPH  
 EMS Medical Director  
 University of Chicago Medical Center



Eddie Markul, MD  
 EMS Medical Director  
 Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center



Joseph Weber, MD  
 EMS Medical Director  
 John H. Stroger Jr., Hospital of Cook County

Copy to: Kathryn 'KC' Booth RN, EMS System Coordinator, Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center  
 Cyd Gajewski RN, EMS System Coordinator, University of Chicago Medical Center  
 Ameera Haamid, MD, Associate EMS Medical Director, University of Chicago Medical Center  
 Patricia Lindeman RN, EMS System Coordinator, Northwestern Memorial Hospital  
 Shannon Ziolkowski RN, EMT-P, EMS System Coordinator, John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County