



SENECA COUNTY

Emergency Medical Service



Seneca County Emergency Medical Services Standard Administrative Guideline

Subject: Transport Policy

Reference Number: 26

Effective Date: January 1st, 2009

Review Date: January 1st, 2011

Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the transportation of patients by Seneca County Emergency Medical Services

Background:

Seneca County EMS shall transport all patients to the closest, most appropriate facility.

Although there may be requests by a patient, or patient's family, to transport the patient to a receiving hospital that is not considered by SCEMS to be a local receiving hospital for that squad's area; all transports by SCEMS squads should be made to a local receiving hospital for that individual squad's area. SCEMS squads should avoid transporting to non-local hospitals because of a preference of a patient or family members or where the family physician is located whenever possible.

Transporting to non-local hospitals specifically needs to be addressed when a life or limb threatening emergency exists. SCEMS squads are authorized to transport **ONLY** to the nearest facility during an emergency transport, unless medical control has given express permission, via on-line communication, that it is permissible for this patient.

Policy & Procedure

1. The Local Receiving Hospital for each squad district is as follows:

ATTICA SQUAD	MERCY HOSPITAL, TIFFIN MERCY HOSPITAL, WILLARD BUCYRUS COMMUNITY HOSPITAL BELLEVUE COMMUNITY HOSPITAL
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BASCOM SQUAD	MERCY HOSPITAL, TIFFIN FOSTORIA COMMUNITY HOSPITAL
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Ken Majors RN, NREMT-P, EMS Director
126 Hopewell Ave. Tiffin, Ohio 44883
Office: 419-447-0266 ■ Fax: 419-448-5064



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BETTSVILLE SQUAD	MERCY HOSPITAL, TIFFIN FREMONT MEMORIAL HOSPITAL FOSTORIA COMMUNITY HOSPITAL
BLOOMVILLE SQUAD	MERCY HOSPITAL, TIFFIN BUCYRUS COMMUNITY HOSPITAL BELLEVUE COMMUNITY HOSPITAL; MERCY HOSPITAL, WILLARD
NEW RIEGEL SQUAD	MERCY HOSPITAL, TIFFIN FOSTORIA COMMUNITY HOSPITAL WYANDOT MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, UPPER SANDUSKY BLANCHARD VALLEY, HOSPITAL, FINDLAY
REPUBLIC SQUAD	MERCY HOSPITAL, TIFFIN BELLEVUE COMMUNITY HOSPITAL MERCY HOSPITAL, WILLARD
GREEN SPRINGS SQUAD	MERCY HOSPITAL, TIFFIN FREMONT MEMORIAL HOSPITAL BELLEVUE COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

* It is acceptable to transport a patient to a facility other than listed above per patient/family request if approved by **Medical Control** and it does not cause a shortage of SCEMS resources *

2. MANNER OF TRANSPORT TO HOSPITAL

- A. **EMERGENCY TRANSPORT:** An emergency transport will be made any time there is a possible “life or limb” threatening emergency. These transports will be made with emergency lights and siren activated. The decision of what type of transport made will be up to the Senior EMT on the run.
- B. **NON-EMERGENCY TRANSPORT:** A non-emergency transport shall be made any time there is not a possible “life or limb” threatening emergency. These transports shall be made without emergency lights and siren activated.

All DNR-Comfort Care patients that are transported will be transported NON-EMERGENCY

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3. NON-SCEMT'S DRIVING SCEMS SQUADS

SCEMS is aware there are times squads are staffed by a minimum number of EMTs and it is not unusual to justify the need for supplementary manpower during the transport phase. SCEMTs are authorized to allow another "Public Safety" person to assist on a run by driving a SCEMS squad as long as this individual is knowledgeable on the operations of that particular squad. SCEMS squads are encouraged to provide cross training of this type with your local Fire Department and Law Enforcement staff. Ohio Revised Code provides for personnel that are NOT certified as pre-hospital care providers, firefighters, or law enforcement officers, ARE allowed to drive an ambulance, provided that it is staffed with 2 certified EMT's of any level. (or One EMT of any level and One first Responder –see below)

4. SPECIAL SITUATIONS REGARDING TRANSPORT

In early 2009 Ohio State law changed regarding the necessity of 2 EMTs to transport. This change made it legal to transport with One EMT and One First Responder. This law change only affects primarily Volunteer Emergency Medical Providers.

Seneca County EMS accepts that in certain emergencies this is acceptable.

Not all situations can be foreseen but the following is a partial listing of acceptable situations that apply:

- Multiple Casualty Incidents that require more manpower than is available
- Severe trauma that will deteriorate if not transported immediately
- Paramedic level provider on scene requests immediate transport due to deteriorating patient condition.
- Other situation deemed emergent by the Incident Commander

These situations should not be all inclusive.

In all of these situations the highest trained (certified) medical provider shall ride in the rear of the ambulance with the patient, without exception.

There shall never be an incident where a First Responder cares for the patient while an EMT drives.

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