

**REGION I EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
STANDING MEDICAL ORDERS
EMT – Basic, EMT- Paramedic**

SMO: Interhospital/ Interfacility Transport

Overview: Frequently, patients need to be transported between hospitals for higher level of care or more specific care procedures. Patients are to be treated during transport in accordance with existing standard operating procedures and policies & procedures. EMT's are to maintain ongoing care of the patient until responsibility is assumed by equal or higher level personnel at the receiving facility.

INFORMATION NEEDED

- ___ Diagnosis of patient that is being transported between facilities.
- ___ Skills required to appropriately care for that patient.
- ___ Additional personnel (i.e. physician, RN, respiratory therapist) required for the transport.
- ___ Medications/ skills that are within the Expanded Scope of practice approved by IDPH and the EMS Medical Director.

PROCEDURE

- ___ Interhospital / interfacility transports do not routinely need to be called into the resource hospital. If there are any questions concerning the patient to be transported or concerns over medical care enroute, contact must be established with Medical Control (ECRNs or Emergency Department Physicians.)
- ___ The resource hospital must be contacted in the following circumstances:
 - Change in patient status enroute that requires intervention;
 - Medical-legal issues needing immediate clarification and documentation;
 - Concerns between transferring/transporting physician orders and SOPs or policies and procedures;
 - Interventions by any non-physician personnel transporting with the patient.
- ___ Documentation should be followed as per routine policy for any patient contact by EMT's. In addition, document names of transferring and receiving physicians and reasons for transfer.
- ___ Interhospital / interfacility transfer of patients requiring skills for which EMT's are not trained to perform (excluding home care devices) shall require either a registered nurse and/or physician licensed in Illinois, a certified respiratory therapist or perfusionist experienced with the specific skills in question, to be in attendance of the patient throughout the transport. Any exceptions or deviations in Scope of Practice must have prior approval of the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Resource Hospital EMS Medical Director under Expanded Scope of Practice. The following list of examples is not meant to be all inclusive:
 - Respirators/ventilators not approved by the system
 - Intra-aortic balloon pumps
 - Arterial lines
 - Swan-Ganz catheters
 - Temporary pacemakers
 - Blood or blood product infusions
 - Nitroglycerin infusions
 - Dobutamine infusions
 - Antibiotic infusions
 - IV fluid additives (exception: IV potassium if ambulance approved for Paramedic expanded scope. See policy.)
 - Chest tubes

Documentation of adherence to protocol:

- Diagnosis of patient that is being transported between facilities.
- Additional personnel (i.e. physician, RN, respiratory therapist) accompanying on the transport.
- Medications/ skills that are within the Expanded Scope of practice approved by IDPH and the EMS Medical Director.
- Appropriate care rendered; problems encountered on the transport
- Status of patient pre- and post- transport.

Medical Control Contact Criteria

- Contact Medical Control if any questions arise regarding appropriateness of transport.
- Contact Medical Control if any questions arise regarding the best treatment options for the patient.

PRECAUTIONS AND COMMENTS

- Any exceptions or deviations in Scope of Practice must have prior approval of the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Resource Hospital EMS Medical Director under Expanded Scope of Practice.
- If any questions exist regarding the appropriateness of the transport, contact Medical Control for guidance.