

**South Metro Fire Department**  
**Clinical Policies and Procedures**

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Title: Acceptable Methods of Transporting Patients  
Effective Date: December 15, 2015  
Authorized By: Keith Wesley, MD Medical Director  
Standard: Patient Care and Transport  
Policy: South Metro Fire shall ensure a safe environment for patients being transported by ambulance.

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**I. Purpose**

This policy defines how patients are to be transported in the patient compartment of the ambulance.

**II. Definitions**

1. Transporting Patient: Any patient who is transported via ambulance by South Metro Fire(SMFD).

**III. Procedure**

- A. All patients being transported via SMFD in a licensed ambulance are to be transported on the patient stretcher with 4-point harness system.
- B. If the patient refuses take the following steps;
  1. Inform the patient that the most secure and safe manner of transportation is on the stretcher.
  2. Inform the patient that it is SMFD policy to only transport patients on the stretcher.
  3. If the patient continues to refuse, contact a Supervisor, Chief Officer, or Medical Control for guidance. Possible outcomes include;
    - a) Informing the patient that they will not be transported.
    - b) Allowing the patient to be transported on the bench seat.
  4. In the event that the patient is transported on the bench seat due to their refusal, the following must be documented;
    - a) Document in the PCR the patient refused stretcher transportation and was informed of the risks of being transported on the bench seat.
    - b) Complete an EMS QA report.
- C. Regardless of the above, patients on Transport Holds are required to be transported on the stretcher using the appropriate safety securing devices. There are no exceptions for this group of patients. Enlist the assistance of law enforcement if

necessary and utilize the Physical and Chemical Restraint policies as necessary to affect a safe transport.

- D. Exception to policy: during a mass casualty incident.
  - 1. During such an incident, “Green” and “Yellow” patients may be transported on the bench seat with appropriate waist and shoulder restraints.
  - 2. All “Red” patients should be transported on the stretcher.

Previous Versions: 10/13