

South Metro Fire Department
Clinical Policies and Procedures

Title:	Hospital Destination Determination
Effective Date:	April 1, 2015
Authorized By:	Keith Wesley, MD Medical Director
Standard:	Patient Care and Transport
Policy:	It is the policy of South Metro Fire to transport patients to the hospital of the patient's choice unless the patient's condition requires the services of specifically designated receiving facilities.

I. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide specific steps for EMS personnel in assisting the patient in choosing an appropriate medical facility.

II. Definitions

A. Designated Receiving Facility – A hospital that is recognized by local protocol to be capable of providing definitive care for specific conditions

III. Procedure

1. When ambulance transport is determined to be appropriate the patient shall be given a choice of destination hospital. This choice applies only when the patient's condition does not dictate they should be taken to a particular hospital based on protocol (i.e. Stroke, STEMI, Major Trauma, ROSC following Cardiac Arrest). **If the patient requires specialty care the patient or their family will be asked to choose from a list of designated facilities listed under item 7 below.** The choice of destination hospital will be determined using the following accepted scripting to the patient.

a. Acceptable scripting includes but is not limited to:

“What hospital do you want us to take you to?”

“What hospital do you use?”

b. If the patient states they have no preference then the following script is to be used.

“We would like to take you to St. Joseph’s hospital where they will be happy to take care of you? Is that acceptable?”

i. Acceptable alternatives to St. Joseph’s hospital include St. Johns and Woodwinds if their condition is stable and doing so would not negatively impact system resources.

ii. If the patient agrees, then transport them to the appropriate HealthEast facility

- c. If the Patient disagrees and states a different preference then transport them to the hospital of their choice if it is appropriate to their condition.
2. Patients will be transported to the medical facility of their choice if it is within a reasonable distance surrounding the South Metro service area and if sufficient system resources exist to facilitate the transport. The list of approved facilities within a reasonable distance include;
 - St. Joseph's – St. Paul
 - St. John's – Maplewood
 - Woodwinds – Woodbury
 - Children's – St. Paul (United Hospital)
 - Gillette – St. Paul (Regions Hospital)
 - Regions – St. Paul
 - United – St. Paul
 - Fairview Ridges – Burnsville
 - Fairview Southdale – Edina
 - Abbott Northwestern – Minneapolis
 - Children's Hospital of Minnesota – Minneapolis
 - West Bank University of Minnesota Medical Center (Fairview Riverside) – Minneapolis
 - Hennepin County Medical Center (HCMC) – Minneapolis
 - The Mother Baby Center (a cooperation of Abbott-Northwestern and Children's Hospitals and Clinics) (formerly Amplatz)- Minneapolis
 - East Bank, University of Minnesota Medical Center – Minneapolis
 - Regina Hospital – Hastings
 - Department of Veteran's Affairs Hospital - Minneapolis
3. Patients without a preference for a particular facility will be transported to one of the following whichever is closest and most appropriate
 - St. Joseph's Hospital
 - St. John's Hospital
 - Woodwinds
4. Patients requiring specialized care that can only be provided at a specific facility should be transported there. Medical Control should be consulted when the patient's request is not consistent with this policy.
5. If two or more patients from a car accident request to go to different hospitals, and there are an adequate number of ambulances available to do so, they should be

transported where they request. If there are not enough ambulances available, then transport to the nearest appropriate hospital shall be initiated

6. The Medical Control Physician will make all final destination decisions when requested for clarification.
7. Patients requiring specialty care based on their presentation are to be transported to the nearest appropriate designate facility. Designated receiving facilities that provide specialty care include the following;

1. Level One Cardiac Centers

Patients presenting with signs and symptoms consistent with an acute myocardial infarction should be transported to the nearest Level One Cardiac Center. These patients will be designated **CODE AMI** in the patient report to the hospital. The approved Level One Cardiac Centers include;

- St. Joseph's Hospital
- United Hospital
- Abbott Northwestern Hospital
- Fairview Southdale Hospital
- HCMC
- North Memorial
- Regions Hospital
- University of Minnesota Medical Center (East Bank) – Minneapolis

2. Cardiac Arrest Receiving Centers

Patient suffering a cardiac arrest for whom return of spontaneous circulation has been obtained or that are transported with continuing CPR should be transported to one of the following designated centers

- St. Joseph's
- Abbott Northwestern
- United
- Fairview Southdale
- HCMC
- Regions
- University of Minnesota Medical Center (East Bank) – Minneapolis

3. Primary Stroke Receiving Centers

Patients presenting with symptoms of an acute cerebrovascular accident should be transported to the one of the following centers;

- St. Joseph's
- St. John's

- Woodwinds
- Abbott Northwestern
- United
- Fairview Southdale
- Fairview Ridges
- University of Minnesota Medical Center (West Bank)
- Regions
- HCMC
- University of Minnesota Medical Center (East Bank) – Minneapolis

4. Trauma Receiving Centers

- a. Patients with multiple trauma for which a Trauma Team Activation (TTA) is initiated will be transported to the nearest Level One Trauma Center which include;
 - Regions Hospital
 - HCMC
 - North Memorial Medical Center
- b. Patient with traumatic injuries not meeting TTA criteria yet with some suspicion of significant trauma will be transported to the nearest Level Two Trauma Center which include;
 - United Hospital
 - University of Minnesota (East Bank)
- c. Pediatric patients meeting TTA criteria will be transported to the nearest Level One Trauma Center with Pediatric Capability. These include;
 - Regions Hospital
 - HCMC

5. Pediatric Specialty Centers

Pediatric patients with any critical medical condition should be transported to a pediatric specialty center. They include;

- Gillette Children's– St. Paul (Regions Hospital)
- Children's Hospital of Minnesota – Minneapolis
- University Minnesota Children's Hospital – Minneapolis

6. Hyperbaric Medicine

Patients with decompression illness or significant carbon monoxide poisoning should be transported to a facility with hyperbaric capabilities. They include;

- HCMC

7. Neonatal Care

Neonates in distress or born to high-risk OB mothers should be transported to a facility with Level Three Neonatal Intensive Care capabilities. All other neonates should be transported to a facility with Level Two NICU capabilities.

a. Level III NICU

- United Hospital – Children’s Hospital of Minnesota St. Paul
- Abbott Northwestern Hospital – Children’s Hospital of Minnesota Minneapolis
- Fairview Riverside – University of Minnesota Children’s Hospital Minneapolis

b. Level II NICU

- St. John’s Hospital
- Fairview Ridges Hospital

8. Pre-term labor

Women in pre-term labor should be transported one of the following facilities based on the estimated gestational age of the fetus.

- HealthEast St John's - 28 weeks
- HealthEast St. Joe's - 34 weeks
- HealthEast Woodwinds - 34 weeks
- United- 23 weeks
- U of M Masonic Childrens - 23 weeks
- Abbott - 23 weeks
- Regions - 32 weeks
- Mercy - 34 weeks (No CPAP or resp Support)
- Unity - 34 weeks (No CPAP or resp support)
- North Memorial 23 weeks
- Methodist 32 weeks (no vents)
- Fairview Southdale - 30 weeks
- Fairview Ridges - 30 weeks

9. Mental Health Centers

Patients experiencing a mental health crisis should be transported to a facility with in-patient mental health capabilities. The approved mental health centers include;

a. Adult Mental Health

- St. Joseph’s Hospital

- United Hospital
 - Regions Hospital
 - Fairview Riverside Hospital (West Bank)
 - HCMC
 - Abbott Northwestern Hospital
- b. Adolescent Mental Health
- Fairview Riverside
 - United Hospital
- c. Pediatric Mental Health Centers
- Children’s Hospital of Minnesota – St. Paul (United)
 - Children’s Hospital of Minnesota – Minneapolis
 - Gillette Children’s Hospital

IV. **Documentation:**

- A. Document the decision choice on the Tablet PCR in the following manner.
1. Patient Choice: If they have a physician or specifically request a particular hospital.
 2. EMT Decision: If you utilize the no preference policy.
 3. Per Protocol: If the patient meets condition specific destination protocol (Stroke, STEMI, Major Trauma, ROSC following Cardiac Arrest).
 4. Medical Control: If medical control decides destination.

Previous versions: