

Hospital Guidelines for Acute Care Interfacility Transfer

I. PURPOSE

This policy describes options for interfacility transfer (IFT) between acute care hospitals and the procedures required to arrange transport. Transport options vary in terms of accompanying personnel, scope of practice provided, and timeliness of availability.

II. PROCEDURES TO ARRANGE 9-1-1 PARAMEDIC IFT EMERGENCY TRANSPORT

- A. For a patient who requires emergency transfer (needing immediate care or intervention at the receiving hospital (e.g., critical trauma, stroke or STEMI):
 1. Assure appropriate indication for use. Emergency ambulance transport utilizes 9-1-1 resources and is reserved for truly emergent cases;
 2. Activate 9-1-1 to request Interfacility Emergency Response. Exception: *For San Ramon Regional Medical Center, contact San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District Communication Center.*
 3. Arrange for transfer with receiving hospital personnel.
 4. Assess patient to determine if needs during transport will exceed paramedic scope of practice. If beyond paramedic scope, hospital will need to provide personnel and equipment to accompany patient (e.g., if IV pump needed, blood transfusion in progress, management of paralytic agents for intubated patient).
 5. Have records (and staff and equipment, if necessary) prepared for transport. The ambulance will generally arrive within ten (10) minutes of request and patient should be ready for transport. If delays occur, the 9-1-1 ambulance may be reassigned for other emergency needs. If additional records are not available, they can be faxed or transported separately.

Guideline Table:

Type of Transport	Patient Needs	Scope of Practice	Contact
9-1-1 Advanced Life Support (Paramedic) IFT Emergency Transport	Emergent intervention or evaluation not available at the sending hospital (e.g., trauma, STEMI, obstetric care for active labor where birth is not imminent). May include neuro and vascular patients transported directly to OR/intervention.	Paramedic scope of practice as authorized and accredited by CCCEMSA	9-1-1



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III. ARRANGING NON-EMERGENCY INTERFACILITY TRANSPORT

It is the responsibility of the transferring hospital to determine the transport option appropriate for the patient's condition based on the table below.

Guideline Table:

Type of Transport	Patient Needs	Scope of Practice	Contact
Critical Care Transport with RN	Advanced care for patients with complex medical care needs as determined by the transferring physician and the ambulance provider. May include pediatric and obstetric patients.	Critical Care RN	Contact ambulance service directly
Air Ambulance	RN/Paramedic level of care for patients with complex medical needs when distance and time are a critical factor. May include pediatric, trauma and obstetric patients.	Critical Care RN/Paramedic	Contact air ambulance service directly
Non-emergency Advanced Life Support (Paramedic)	Scheduled transport for patients who require advanced level of care. Patient does not require emergent intervention.	Paramedic scope of practice as authorized and accredited by CCCEMSA	Contact Contra Costa County Fire Protection District 925-941-3370
Non-emergency Basic Life Support (EMT)	Needs transport for procedure or to another facility. May include pediatric and obstetric patients.	EMT scope of practice as authorized by CCCEMSA	Contact ambulance service directly

