

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

SMO: Ambulance Diversion Status Changes

Overview: All hospitals in the State of Illinois Region 1 provide care to all patients presenting to their emergency departments. However, it is recognized that hospital resources vary over time, depending upon patient care demands, equipment, staffing availability and status of facilities requiring the hospital to be placed on hospital diversion status.

Any critical patient will be transported to the closest facility for stabilization in the emergency department. Admission or transfer of the stabilized patient is at the discretion of the receiving hospital, provided it complies with all applicable laws and regulation regarding the transfer of EMS patients.

These guidelines are to help EMS understand EMS's role in the process of hospital diversion status changes.

GUIDELINES FOR DIVERSION

To best assure that pre-hospital triage decisions are made in the interest of the patient, the following guidelines have been developed:

- ___ If it is decided that resource limitations affect the ability of a hospital to provide optimum emergency department care, hospital personnel may choose to divert the ambulance transporting the patient to the next closest hospital.
- ___ This diversion system is based on notification of resource limitations so that the **EMSMD** or his/her designee can make informed decision as to the receiving hospital for each patient, taking into account the nature of the patients problem, the acuity of need, receiving hospital resource availability, transportation time, and the relative risks versus benefits to the patient of ambulance diversion.
- ___ It is recommended that participating hospitals notify the appropriate agencies in their service area of the following resource limitations. When the appropriate guideline has been satisfied, permission for ambulance diversion can be granted. Examples of appropriate reasons for diversion include:
 - No adult monitored beds
 - Hospital internal disaster (i.e. Flood, Fire, etc.)
 - Lack of sophisticated diagnostic capability, (i.e., C.T. scan or angiography)

If three or more hospitals in a geographic area are on diversion then all must come off diversion. When an ambulance diversion situation has occurred, the resource hospital, EMS office must be notified for review and Q.A.

Documentation of adherence to protocol:

- Contact with Medical Control to establish state of hospital diversion status.
- Orders received from Medical Control regarding patient destination.

Medical Control Contact Criteria

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Verification of hospital diversion status<input type="checkbox"/> Orders received from Medical Control regarding patient destination. |
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PRECAUTIONS AND COMMENTS

- Be familiar with local System and State procedure regarding Hospital Diversion.
- Be advised to call Medical Control EARLY to determine patient destination.
- Currently, hospital personnel with access to the State Web Portal may view bypass status of any Illinois hospital.