



North Region EMS System

Policy Section #	Patient Care	
	PC 107	Date 9/2018
Title	Hospital Destination: Bypass, Diversion	
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Purpose To provide guidelines for EMS field decisions regarding hospital destination.

- Policy**
- 1) Nearest hospital is the hospital closest to the scene as determined by transportation travel time, not actual mileage.
 - 2) Patients shall be transported to the nearest hospital with a comprehensive ED, unless one of the following:
 - a. Medical benefits to the patient, reasonably expected from the provision of appropriate medical treatment at a more distant facility, outweigh the increased risks to the patient from transport to the more distant facility (e.g., patients who meet SOP predefined field triage criteria for Level-I trauma center).
 - b. The decisional patient requests transport to a more distant facility (see Refusal regarding Treatment, Transport, Destination Policy).
 - c. The patient meets pre-established criteria for, and consents to, transport to a free-standing emergency center (FEC).
 - d. The nearest hospital is on bypass, and the OLMC physician has done a medical risk/benefit analysis, and has approved patient transport to a more distant facility.
 - i. When the nearest hospital is on bypass, EMS personnel should still contact the nearest hospital as soon as possible - while on the scene, for a destination determination.
 - ii. In most cases, unstable patients or those experiencing a time sensitive emergency will be transported to the nearest hospital - despite being on bypass.
 - iii. Bypass may not be honored if three or more hospitals in a geographic area are on bypass status and transport time by an ambulance to the nearest facility exceeds 15 minutes.

References <http://www.ilga.gov/commission/icar/admincode/077/077005150C03150R.html>

Evert Gerritsen
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