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**Purpose:** To define the decision-making process to be followed by EMS personnel in the Kent County EMS system regarding determination of destination hospital for patients.

**I. Transport Destination Decisions**

- A. In cases of trauma arrest or impending trauma arrest as determined by the prehospital provider, the patient will be taken to the closest appropriate\* hospital, according to protocol.
- B. In cases of medical arrest or impending medical arrest as determined by the prehospital provider, the patient will be taken to the hospital of his/her choice, providing:
  - 1. If patient is a minor, or is incompetent, transport to the hospital of family or guardian choice.
  - 2. If hospital of choice is of a distance as to remove the EMS vehicle from availability for an extensive period of time, contact medical control and an alternative choice will be considered.
- C. In matters which are not a threat of life and death or loss of limb, the patient will be taken to the hospital of his/her choice, providing:
  - 1. If patient is a minor, or is incompetent, transport to the hospital of family or guardian choice.
  - 2. If hospital of choice is of a distance as to remove the EMS vehicle from availability for an extensive period of time, contact medical control and an alternative choice will be considered.
- D. No other individuals shall be allowed to determine destination of patient without prior approval of the medical control physician: (police, fire, bystander physician, etc.)

\* **Appropriate Destinations will be determined according to Hospital Destination Matrix – Appendix IV.V.A.**

**II. Patient Diversions**

- A. Once a decision has been made to transport a patient to a particular hospital based on the process outlined above, the patient may be diverted to another hospital if:
  - 1. On-line radio contact is made with the initial hospital and that facility requests immediate diversion to another hospital. Documentation of the reason for the diversion should be included in the EMS Medical Record.
  - 2. The patient experiences an immediate, life-threatening deterioration in condition and, in the best medical judgment of the EMS personnel, the patient should be transported to a closer facility.
    - a. Immediate on-line medical direction should be established with the hospital to which the patient will be diverted.
    - b. Contact with the initial hospital should be made as quickly as possible to inform it of the diversion.

Transportation guidelines  
9/7/79, 6/30/87, 2/26/91,  
2/18/95, 11/14/96, 1/01, 9/01, 11/04

## Appendix A

### Kent County EMS System Hospital Destinations November 2004

	Metropolitan Hospital	Spectrum Health – Butterworth Campus	Spectrum Health - Blodgett Campus	St. Mary's Hospital
<b>ADULT Trauma</b>				
Priority 1	<b>DIVERT</b>	YES	<b>DIVERT</b>	YES
Priority 2 (head, neck, trunk)	YES	YES	<b>DIVERT<sup>3</sup></b>	YES
Priority 2 (extremity only)	YES	YES	YES	YES
Priority 3	YES	YES	YES	YES
<b>ADULT Medical – Cardiovascular<sup>4</sup></b>				
Priority 1	YES	YES	<b>DIVERT<sup>4</sup></b>	YES
Priority 2	YES	YES	<b>DIVERT<sup>4</sup></b>	YES
Priority 3	YES	YES	<b>DIVERT<sup>4</sup></b>	YES
<b>Adult Medical Non-cardiovascular</b>				
Priority 1	YES	YES	YES	YES
Priority 2	YES	YES	YES	YES
Priority 3	YES	YES	YES	YES
<b>PEDIATRIC Trauma</b>				
Priority 1	<b>DIVERT</b>	YES	<b>DIVERT<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>DIVERT</b>
Priority 2	YES	YES	<b>DIVERT<sup>1</sup></b>	YES
Priority 3	YES	YES	<b>DIVERT<sup>2</sup></b>	YES
<b>PEDIATRIC Medical</b>				
Priority 1	<b>DIVERT</b>	YES	<b>DIVERT<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>DIVERT</b>
Priority 2	YES	YES	<b>DIVERT<sup>1</sup></b>	YES
Priority 3	YES	YES	<b>DIVERT<sup>2</sup></b>	YES
<b>OBSTETRIC</b>	YES	YES	<b>DIVERT</b>	YES

**NOTE: Pediatric patients for purposes of destination determinations are defined as those patients LESS THAN 16 years of age. Patients 16 years or older meet ADULT destination criteria.**

<sup>1</sup> Pediatric patients meeting burn center criteria will continue to be transported to Spectrum Health-East Campus.

<sup>2</sup> The only exception to this diversion is a priority 3 pediatric patient going with multiple family members to Spectrum Health-East Campus from the same incident.

<sup>3</sup> Priority 2 trauma limited to those with ONLY extremity trauma; Priority 2 head, neck or trunk injuries should be diverted.

<sup>4</sup> Cardiovascular refers to any patient who is experiencing signs or symptoms that may be related to a cardiovascular cause – heart or vascular system (e.g. acute coronary syndrome, aneurism, etc.)

**NOTE:** When a patient is diverted from an initial hospital, the patient should be given the opportunity to choose from the other appropriate facilities based on this matrix.