

ER.15 The hospital maintains effective ambulance services.

- ER.15.1 Emergency department has appropriate channels of communication with Red Crescent services upon receiving or transferring patients.
 - ER.15.2 The ambulance services are supervised by emergency department director or emergency department nursing manager.
 - ER.15.3 The ambulances have adequate equipment and supplies to be ready for transfer of patients twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.
 - ER.15.4 Equipment and supplies are based on Trauma/resuscitation area preparation to transfer critically ill patients.
 - ER.15.5 A documented daily check is conducted on both medical and mechanical functions of ambulances.
 - ER.15.6 Maintenance of ambulance equipment is regularly conducted and documented.
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Standard Intent:

The hospital's process for referring, transferring, or discharging patients includes an understanding of the transportation needs of patients. Upon completion of the service, the patient may require assistance with transportation back to his or her home or another facility. Assessing the patient's transportation needs and ensuring that the patient has safe transportation is the hospital's responsibility, the type of transportation will vary and may be by ambulance or other vehicles owned by the hospital or by a source designated by the family, the transportation selected will depend on the patient's condition and status. When the transport vehicles are owned by the hospital, they need to be in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations related to their operation, condition, and maintenance. The required drugs, medications, and other supplies needed within the vehicle are based on the types of patients transported. If the hospital contracts for transport services, the hospital must be assured that the contractor meets similar standards for patient and vehicle safety. In all cases, the hospital evaluates the quality and safety of the transportation services.
