

PC.39.5 There is a written acceptance for transfer of responsibility for the patient's care by the receiving provider/organization.

PC.39.6 The hospital communicates with all potential receiving organizations and necessary arrangements are made whenever applicable.

Standard Intent:

Transferring a patient to an outside organization is based on the patient's status and need for continuing health care services. Transfer may be in response to a patient's need for specialized consultation and treatment, urgent services, or less-intensive services, such as sub-acute care or longer-term rehabilitation. Criteria help to identify when a transfer is necessary in order to ensure that the patient's needs are met.

PC.40 The hospital ensures safe transportation of patients during transfer to other organizations.

PC.40.1 The most responsible physician assesses the transportation needs of the patient according to his condition.

PC.40.2 Transportation needs of the patient are communicated to the relevant staff.

PC.40.3 The transportation is provided promptly and safely in emergency cases (e.g. trauma, or cardiac emergency).

PC.40.4 The most responsible physician ensures that all patient's health needs during transportation are met.

PC.40.5 Adequate equipment and supplies are available during transportation.

PC.40.6 A qualified staff member accompanies the patient during transportation.

PC.40.7 The patient is monitored as appropriate during transfer.

PC.40.8 Handover is completed to staff at the receiving organization.

Standard Intent:

Transferring a patient directly to another health care organization may be a brief process with an alert and talking patient, or it may involve moving a comatose patient who needs continuous nursing or medical oversight. In either case, the patient requires monitoring and may need specialized medical technology, but the qualifications of the individual doing the monitoring and the type of medical technology needed are significantly different.

Thus, the condition and status of the patient determine the qualifications of the staff member monitoring the patient and the type of medical technology needed during transfer.

A consistent process for how patients are transferred from one organization to another is required to ensure that patients are transferred safely. Such a process addresses

- how responsibility is transferred between practitioners and settings;
- criteria for when transfer is necessary to meet the patient's needs;
- who is responsible for the patient during transfer;
- what medications, supplies, and medical technology are required during transfer;