

Title: Requests for Non-Medical Transport	
Category: Operational	Reference: 8.5
Approved by: Senior Operations Committee	Approved: 27 October 2016 Next Review: November 2019

1. PURPOSE

BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS) provides emergency health services and ambulance services, including inter-facility transfers and transport following discharge, for patients requiring medical care.

This policy is intended to ensure the availability of BCEHS resources to provide timely out-of-hospital care to patients requiring emergency medical services or ambulance services by eliminating non-medical transports.

This policy is aligned with the BC Ministry of Health Services Provincial Framework for Patient Ground Transfers which all Health Authorities are expected to follow.

2. POLICY

For all inter-facility transfers or requests for non-medical transport, it is the policy of British Columbia Emergency Health Services (BCEHS) to transport patients only if an ambulance has been determined to be medically necessary, unless otherwise approved by a Supervisor or Manager.

3. SCOPE

This policy applies to requests to transport patients who are identified as medically stable and who have no special care requirements pursuant to the Non-Medical Transport Algorithm (Please see Appendix).

4. DEFINITIONS

“Ambulance Services” (as defined under the *Emergency Health Services Act*) means the use of an ambulance to

- a) provide emergency health services, or
- b) transport an individual
 - i. under the care of, or
 - ii. who requires, or may require, a service provided by

a medical practitioner, a nurse practitioner, an emergency medical assistant or another health care provider.

“Emergency Medical Services” (as defined under the *Emergency Health Services Act*) means first aid or other health care provided in circumstances in which it is necessary to provide the first aid or other health care without delay in order to

- a) preserve an individual's life,
- b) prevent or alleviate serious physical or mental harm, or
- c) alleviate severe pain

but does not include

- d) services provided by, from, in or through a facility, or
- e) a service excluded by order of the minister for the purposes of this definition.

“Non-Medical Transports” refers to medically stable patients with no special care requirements pursuant to the Non-Medical Transport Algorithm.

Appendix

Non-Medical Transport Algorithm

