


Section: Patient Transport  
Subject: HOSPITAL BYPASS GUIDELINES  
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Page 1 of 1

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1. To promote community cooperation in the delivery of emergency medical services, the Hillsborough County Emergency Planning Council (EMPC) has approved Ambulance Diversion and Bypass Guidelines.
2. If the patient's requested facility is on Bypass status, pre-hospital crews will make a sincere effort to honor the Bypass status.
  - a. If the patient adamantly insists on being taken to a hospital that is on Bypass status despite being notified of its stated inability to care for the patient, or if medical conditions warrant, the paramedics will contact the hospital to inform them of the ETA.
  - b. The patient who insists on transport to a facility on bypass will sign a "Requested Hospital on Bypass" form.
3. Should all Hillsborough County State Approved Trauma Centers be on Trauma Bypass at the same time, EDC will contact those Trauma Centers to determine what specific capabilities each has.
  - a. In the above event, other Hillsborough County hospitals may need to receive trauma patients for initial stabilization and care.
4. Should all the hospitals in a geographic area of the county request Bypass status:
  - a. Bypass status will be canceled for all the hospitals in that geographic region.
  - b. EDC will notify the ambulance services of the updated status and patients will be transported to the closest appropriate facility.
5. Any problem identified as directly or indirectly related to a diversion will be followed up by the Hillsborough County Bypass Committee.