

USA HEALTH: DEPARTMENT of EMERGENCY MEDICINE OPERATIONAL PROTOCOL

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SUBJECT: ED to ED Transfers

Patients that require transfer from the ED of initial presentation to another ED, whether inside or outside of the USA Health (USAH) system, require a medical screening exam (MSE) prior to transfer. The need for transfer is determined by the patient's condition and the level of specialization and resources available of the facility.

All such patients will be dispositioned from the ED as a "TRANSFER" and have appropriate transfer paperwork completed. This includes a physician/APP to physician/APP and nurse to nurse communication between the sending and accepting (or patient preference) ED facilities.

If there is concern for a true emergency medical condition, defined as a threat to life, limb, or organ system, the patient is required to be transferred via ambulance. If ambulance transfer is recommended by the sending ED physician, and the patient refuses they will be asked to sign AMA paperwork per the facility's protocols. But otherwise, attempts to best coordinate the transfer process will still apply. The transfer documentation, MSE, physician/APP to physician/APP, and nurse to nurse communication is still required to be completed.

Patients that are evaluated and not found to have an emergency medical condition on MSE, do not require a "TRANSFER" disposition and can be discharged from the ED, with instructions for outpatient follow up and return precautions.

Notes:

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