



Regional Diversion Policy for Emergency Patients

Lord Fairfax EMS Council, Inc.
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LORD FAIRFAX EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES COUNCIL, INC.
REGIONAL DIVERSION POLICY FOR EMERGENCY PATIENTS

Revision History

Description of Change	Change Effective Date
Original Document	3/2004
Revised	4/2007
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Approved by Executive committee w/no revisions	6/2024

Purpose

To maintain an orderly, systematic, and medically effective distribution of emergency patients transported by ambulances during a single or multiple hospital diversion situation within the Lord Fairfax EMS Council Region.

Scope

This policy pertains to all acute care hospitals (here-in-after “Acute Care Facilities”, “facilities”, or “facility”) and all licensed EMS agencies providing ground ambulance transportation as defined in Virginia Department of Health regulations within Planning District 7.

The acute care hospitals include: Winchester Medical Center, Winchester, VA; Warren Memorial Hospital, Front Royal, VA. The region’s critical access hospitals are Shenandoah Memorial Hospital, Woodstock, VA; Page Memorial Hospital, Luray, VA.

Transport Policy in Lord Fairfax EMS Council Region

The Lord Fairfax EMS Council region is unique in that hospital facilities may be located 20-30 miles from the next closest facility. Because of the distances involved, acute care facilities within the Region will not go on diversion except in extreme circumstances or as otherwise indicated by the Regional Trauma Triage Plan. EMS Agencies will transport their patients to the closest appropriate facility. The receiving acute care facility, will decide whether more appropriate care should be continued elsewhere.

Policy Elements

Reasons for diversion:

- Overwhelmed Resources: in unique circumstances, an acute care facility and their emergency department may become overwhelmed with patients, exceeding the capacity for staff to adequately treat and monitor their patients. To relieve this temporary situation, a facility may declare diversion of acute patients, whereby ambulances are diverted to other area facilities. These other receiving facilities should be the next closest appropriate facility.
- Structural instability or physical plant failure: this could potentially make a destination facility hazardous for the treatment of patients. **This is not ambulance diversion** but the inability of a facility to treat any patients appropriately. Ambulances should take patients to the next closest appropriate facility in this circumstance.

Decisions Which Are Not Diversions

The following are not considered a diversion status:

1. Winchester Medical Center on Trauma Diversion – this means that Winchester Medical Center is not accepting inter-facility trauma transfers. EMS Agencies should continue to transport patients to the Emergency Department (ED) as normal. Where trauma patients are entrapped with serious signs and symptoms, EMS Agencies should consider air transport, whereby transport decisions will be deferred to the flight crew.
2. Medical control refers the incoming ambulance to another facility providing more appropriate care. This may occur when medical control judges their facility cannot appropriately care for the patient as in a facility does not contain labor and delivery facilities (imminent delivery should be transported to the closest facility), or, the patient is a severe multi-trauma patient and no operating room (OR) facilities are available, or, a kidney transplant patient is in distress and the receiving facility has no expertise in transplants or dialysis.

Procedures for Diversion

Acute Care Facilities will:

- Have the appropriate Emergency Communications Center (ECC) make a general announcement for all agencies to this effect.
- Notify the Lord Fairfax EMS Council office by phone at (540) 665-0014 or after hours directly to the Executive Director at (540) 336-3893.

Pre-hospital Care Providers will:

- When possible and without detriment to patient care, abide by diversion status of a receiving facility and plan accordingly for care and transport of a patient to the next closest appropriate facility.
- When in doubt on what action to take in diversion situations, pre-hospital providers should always consult with on-line Medical Control about appropriate patient destinations and make the decision that is in the best interest of the patient.

***On the following page you will find a list of hospitals within approximately 90 minutes of Winchester. These are the hospitals to which patients will most likely be diverted to.**

Hospital	Address	Phone #	Fax #
West Virginia Hospitals			
Berkeley Medical Center	2500 Hospital Drive Martinsburg, WV 25401	(304)264-1357	(304)264-3742
Hampshire	363 Sunrise Blvd. Romney, WV 26757	(304)822-4927	(304)822-4951
Jefferson	300 S. Preston St. Ranson, WV 25438	(304)728-1642	(304)728-1644
War	1 Healthy Way Berkeley Springs, WV 25411	(304)258-6536	(304)258-7422
Maryland Hospitals			
Greater Baltimore Medical Center	6701 N. Charles Street Towson, MD. 21204	(443)849-2000	
Meritus Medical Center	11116 Medical Campus Rd. Hagerstown, MD 21742	(301)790-8000	
Western Maryland Hospital Center	1500 Pennsylvania Ave. Hagerstown, MD 21742	(301)745-4200	
Virginia Hospitals			
Augusta Medical Center	78 Medical Center Drive, Fishersville, VA 22939	(540)332-4000	
Culpeper Regional Hospital	501 Sunset Ln. Culpeper, VA 22701	(540)829-4100	
Dominion Hospital	2960 Sleepy Hollow Rd. Falls Church, VA 22044	(703)536-2000	
Fauquier Hospital	500 Hospital Drive Warrenton, VA20186	(540)316-5000	
Inova Alexandria Hospital	4320 Seminary Rd. Alexandria, VA 22304	(703)504-3000	
Inova- FairOaks and Fairfax	(FairOaks) 3600 Joseph Siewick Dr. Fairfax, VA 22033 (Fairfax) 3300 Gallows Rd. Falls Church, VA 22042	(703)391-3600 (FairOaks) (703)776-4001 (Fairfax)	
Loudoun Hospital Center	44045 Riverside Pkwy. Leesburg, VA 20176	(703)858-6000	
Mary Washington Hospital	1001 Sam Perry Blvd. Fredericksburg, VA	(540)741-1100	
MedStar Washington	110 Irving St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20010	(202)877-8800	(202)877-7516
Prince William Health System	8700 Sudley Rd. Manassas, VA 20110	(703)369-8000	
Sentara Rockingham Memorial Hospital	2010 Health Campus Dr. Harrisonburg, VA 22801	(540)689-1000	

Emergency Communications Center	Address	Phone #	Fax #
Clarke County	101 Chalmers Court, Suite B Berryville, VA 22611	(540)955-1234	(540)955-4111
Frederick County	1080 Coverstone Drive Winchester, VA 22602	(540)665-6356	(540)504-6402
Page County	110 South Court Street Luray, VA 22835	(540)743-6571	(540)743-1252
Shenandoah County	600 North Main Street Suite 102 Woodstock, VA 22664	(540)459-6323	(540)459-6168
Warren County	200 Skyline Vista Drive Front Royal, VA 22630	(540)635-4128	(540)636-4950
City of Winchester	231 East Piccadilly Street Winchester, VA 22601	(540)662-4131	(540)542-1312