Government of the
District of Columbia

Department:	***Department of Health***
Administration:	***Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Administration***
Section:	***Emergency Medical Services***
Policy Name:	***Transportation of Patients***
Policy Number:	***2010-0008***
Effective Date:	***15 November 2010***
Approved By:	***Beverly Pritchett, Senior Deputy Director, HEPRA***
Applies To:	***All EMS Operational Agencies***
Purpose:	***Transportation of Patients***
Reference:	***EMS Act of 2008, Section 5***
	29 DCMR 509.3
Revision:	***Original***

Introduction

This policy is designed to clarify the requirements for the transportation of patients in the District of Columbia.

Staffing

The following identifies the minimum staffing requirement for each class of District of Columbia certified transport vehicles:

(a) Basic Life Support Ambulance

1. Two (2) District of Columbia certified Emergency Medical Technicians

(b) Advanced Life Support Ambulance

1. One (1) District of Columbia certified EMT-Intermediate
2. One (1) District of Columbia certified Emergency Medical Technician

(c) Air or water emergency medical response craft

1. One (1) District of Columbia certified Emergency Medical Technician – Intermediate
2. One (1) licensed pilot

Emergency 9-1-1 Transportation of Patients in the District of Columbia

(a) Any patient who is transported by ambulance, where the point of origin is within the District of Columbia, shall only be transported by a certified District of Columbia Emergency Medical Response Organization ambulance except:

1. When the transporting organization has been requested through a mutual aid agreement by the District 9-1-1 ambulance service;

2. When the transporting organization is certified in another state but has a memorandum of understanding, memorandum of agreement, or mutual aid agreement with the primary District 9-1-1 ambulance service, and that agreement has been submitted for review and approval by the Department of Health; or

3. When the transporting organization has been requested through a mutual aid agreement and/or memorandum of understanding by the Department of Health.

(b) Transporting organizations that are not District-certified will adhere to the protocols of the District 9-1-1 ambulance service unless otherwise specified through the DOH approved agreement outlined in Letter (a), Number 2 above.

(c) Patients shall be transported to the appropriate heath care facility as outlined in the District 9-1-1 ambulance service's protocol.

(d) Transportation of a patient by an EMS ambulance or crew that is not certified in the jurisdiction of origin will be reported to the state agency with jurisdiction over EMS services.

1. Organizations may also face civil or criminal penalties from the District of Columbia.

Inter-facility Transportation of Patients Where the Point of Origin is in the District of Columbia.

(a) Any patient who is transported by ambulance, where the point of origin is within the District of Columbia, shall only be transported by a certified District of Columbia Emergency Medical Response Organization ambulance except when the transporting organization has been requested through a mutual aid agreement and/or memorandum of understanding by the Department of Health.

(b) Transporting organizations that are not District-certified will adhere to the protocols of their local jurisdiction unless otherwise specified through a mutual aid agreement and/or memorandum of understanding.

(c) Patients shall be transported to the appropriate heath care facility as outlined in the organization's protocol.

Inter-facility Transportation of Patients Into the District Of Columbia Where the Point of Origin is Outside of the District of Columbia.

(a) Any transport into the District of Columbia shall only be by an EMS ambulance and crew that is certified by the state agency with jurisdiction at the point of origin.

(b) The same transporting ambulance organization can perform the return transport of the same patient to the point of origin.

1. The return transport must be performed by a crew and ambulance that is appropriate for the condition of the patient.

(c) If the requirements of subsection (b) above cannot be met, the transport shall be considered a new transport, with its point of origin in the District of Columbia.

(d) Transportation of a patient by an EMS ambulance or crew that is not certified in the jurisdiction of origin will be reported to the state agency with jurisdiction over EMS services.