



McLean County Area EMS System

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TO: All EMS System Members

FROM: Kris Newcomb RN, BSN
Quality Assurance Coordinator

DATE: May 3, 2018

SUBJECT: Acceptable Transport /Multiple Patients

QA Review has revealed a few instances recently in which an MCI occurred and multiple patients required transport to the hospital. In each instance, a patient was transported in the front passenger seat of the ambulance due to concern for room in back of ambulance. Please be aware that **AT NO TIME** are patients to be transported in the front passenger seat of the ambulance. Patients should be transported in separate ambulances whenever resources permit. In certain limited occurrences, when additional resources are not readily available, it is permissible to transport more than one patient per ambulance if they are members of the same family. The level of care required for multiple patients should not exceed what can be competently managed by available providers. All patients must be properly restrained in the back of the ambulance. In order to comply with IDPH and CMS regulations, a patient must be transported due to medical necessity and require ongoing medical monitoring. A patient being transported in the front of the ambulance cannot be adequately "medically monitored" by driver. Should the patient condition deteriorate, care would be unduly delayed.

The IDPH guidelines for medical necessity are as follows:

10.2.1 - Necessity for the Service (Rev. 1, 10-01-03) B3-2120.2.A, A3-3114.B, HO-236.2 Medical necessity is established when the patient's condition is such that use of any other method of transportation is contraindicated. In any case in which some means of transportation other than an ambulance could be used without endangering the individual's health, whether or not such other transportation is actually available, no payment may be made for ambulance services.

The CMS definition of Medical Necessity is as follows:

"Medical monitoring" means the performance of medical tests and physical exams to evaluate an individual's on-going exposure to a factor that could negatively impact that person's health. "Medical monitoring" includes close surveillance or supervision of patients liable to suffer deterioration in physical or mental health and checks of various parameters such as pulse rate, temperature, respiration rate, the condition of the pupils, the level of consciousness and awareness, the degree of appreciation of pain, and blood gas concentrations such as oxygen and carbon dioxide.

Do not transport patients in the front seat of the ambulance.

Respectfully,

Kris Newcomb RN, BSN

Quality Assurance Coordinator

McLean County Area EMS Systems

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