



STANDARD OPERATING GUIDELINE
SAN JUAN ISLAND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
SAN JUAN COUNTY PUBLIC HOSPITAL DISTRICT NO.1

EMTALA Regulation

SOG #
133-10

Approved: Chief Jim Cole

ISSUED
11/23/2010

PURPOSE: To ensure that all Inter-facility transports are within the guidelines as established by the Federal Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act (EMTALA).

POLICY: The following procedure will be followed when transporting a patient from one facility to another.

PROCEDURE:

- A. When the transport team arrives at the referring hospital, it is the duty of the medical crew to review all paperwork, and to insure that the following has/will occur and/or will be transported with the patient:
1. Signed consent for the transfer by the patient or designated family member.
 2. A physician has certified that the transfer is appropriate and that the benefits of transferring the patient outweigh the risks of transport.
 3. The referring hospital has made the appropriate contacts to the receiving hospital, and if not, assist in doing so, which includes:
 - a. Physician acceptance of the patient.
 - b. Receiving hospital acceptance of the patient.
 - c. Receiving hospital is qualified and equipped to care for the patient.
 - d. Bed space is available for the patient at the receiving hospital.

4. Copies of all medical records are provided for transport with the patient pertinent to the patient's immediate medical condition, including:
 - a. Preliminary diagnosis and physician progress notes.
 - b. Nurses notes.
 - c. Patient's written informed consent to transfer.
 - d. Treatment provided by the referring hospital.
 - e. All pertinent lab test results.
 - f. Copies of all pertinent radiographic images.
 - g. Demographic information of the patient.

- B. During all phases of the patient transfer, all medical care will be consistent with the standard of care utilizing standing orders as set forth by the Medical Director.

- C. The medical crew will ensure that all emergent inter-facility transfers are from a lower level of care to an equal or higher level of care. Any deviations need approval from the Medical Director or online medical control.

- D. Any deviations from this policy will result in a Quality Improvement review of the transport.