

Catawba County Emergency Medical Services System Standard Operating Guideline

Triage and Transport of Patient to Facilities Outside of the System

Catawba County Emergency Medical Services System will transport patients to the most appropriate facility based on the patient's medical condition, the patient's preference, the availability of system resources, and the availability of necessary services at particular facilities.

The first consideration in selecting the facility in which to transport a patient is the condition of the patient.

Adult patients suffering from trauma, stroke, STEMI, or burns and all pediatric patients will be evaluated and transported based on the appropriate Catawba County Emergency Medical Services System Triage and Destination Plan.

If the patient's condition is deemed **unstable** by the attending technician, then the patient will be transported to the nearest emergency department.

Acceptable facilities include:

- Catawba Valley Medical Center
- Frye Regional Medical Center
- Cleveland Regional Medical Center (far southwestern portion of the county)
- Grace Hospital (far western portion of the county)
- Iredell Memorial Hospital (far eastern portion of the county)
- Lake Norman Medical Center (Sherrills Ford area)
- CMC - Lincoln (Maiden area)
- Valdese Hospital (far western portion of the county)
- *Carolina's Medical Center via helicopter (See the Specialty Care Transport Programs SOG)*
- *Mission – St. Joseph's Health System via helicopter (See the Specialty Care Transport Programs SOG)*
- *North Carolina Baptist Hospital via helicopter (See the Specialty Care Transport Programs SOG)*

If the patient's condition is deemed **stable** by the attending technician, then the patient's preference will be considered.

Acceptable facilities include:

- Caldwell Memorial Hospital
- Catawba Valley Medical Center
- Cleveland Regional Medical Center
- Davis Regional Medical Center
- Frye Regional Medical Center
- Grace Hospital
- Iredell Memorial Hospital
- Lake Norman Medical Center
- CMC - Lincoln

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- Presbyterian Hospital Huntersville
- Valdese Hospital

Acceptable facilities with medical control's approval, medical necessity for ambulance transport identified (or payment collected), and with confirmation of an accepting physician include:

- Carolinas Medical Center
- Davie County Hospital
- Duke University Medical Center
- Forsyth Memorial Hospital
- Gaston Memorial Hospital
- Mercy Hospital
- Mission – St. Joseph's Health System
- North Carolina Baptist Hospital
- Presbyterian Hospital
- University Hospital
- University of North Carolina Hospital
- VA Hospital – Asheville
- VA Hospital – Durham
- VA Hospital – Salisbury
- Wilkes County Hospital

If a patient's condition is determined to be **stable**, but the attending technician is not comfortable transporting the patient to a distant facility, the patient will be transported to Catawba Valley Medical Center or Frye Regional Medical Center for evaluation and initial treatment. If the attending physician agrees to transfer the patient and a physician agrees to accept the patient, then the patient may be transferred.

If a patient requests transport to a facility not listed above, the patient will be transported to Catawba Valley Medical Center or Frye Regional Medical Center for evaluation and initial treatment. If the attending physician agrees to transfer the patient and a physician agrees to accept the patient, then the patient may be transferred.

Hospital Diversion or Bypass

If any hospital notifies the Catawba County Communications Center of a diversion or bypass situation, then patients will not be transported to that facility. However, both Catawba Valley Medical Center and Frye Regional Medical Center have agreed to accept any unstable patient, when they are the closest facility, despite their diversion status.