

## Catawba County Emergency Medical Services

### Inter-facility Air Transport

These guidelines will explain Catawba County EMS' response for inter-facility air transports.

- Catawba County EMS will respond to the Hickory Airport (or other designated facility if applicable) for the purpose of transporting awaiting flight crews to transferring facilities. This is to enable those flight crews to receive report from a transferring facility and to utilize their equipment for patient care during transport back to the aircraft.
- Catawba County EMS will transport flight crews and patients back to the aircraft from the transferring facility. Flight crew personnel will be responsible for patient care, though EMS personnel may assist with patient care if requested by the flight crew.
- There may be instances where it is in the best interest of the patient to expedite this process. If so, Catawba County EMS may transport the patient directly from the transferring facility to the aircraft without picking up the flight crew. These responses will be done **by physician order only** and after the following considerations are made:
  - The capabilities or limitations of the Catawba County EMS in managing multiple IV drips and pumps, ventilators, and patient monitoring devices.
  - All parties (EMS, physician, flight crew) should consider the logistics and time involved in switching from hospital equipment to CCEMS equipment to equipment utilized by the receiving aircraft.
  - Examples where this direct transport of pt from facility to aircraft without first picking up the flight crew may be acceptable include:
    - Stable patients with only one IV.
    - Unstable patients who are in an emergent, time-critical situation wherein any delay in arriving at the receiving facility may cause increased morbidity or mortality. (Only with the approval of the EMS Manager or designee.)
    - **The aircraft must be on the ground and prepared for transport before the EMS crew responds from the hospital to the aircraft.**
- Patient Care Report Information
  - Treated, Transferred care – this outcome is to be used when you utilize a medical helicopter for scene flights in which you transfer care to the flight crew, but you do not transport the patient by ambulance. If you transport the patient to a helispot (even if it is only 0.1 mile away), then you will enter the chart as Treated, Transported by EMS.
  - Treated, Transported by EMS – this outcome is to be used when you provide assessment and / or treatment and transportation to another location via ambulance.