



MILWAUKEE COUNTY
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
Emergency Medical Services Division
Numbered Notice

Number: 16-11

To: All Milwaukee County EMS Field Providers

From: M. Riccardo Colella, DO, MPH, FACEP

Kenneth Sternig

Medical Director

Program Director

Date: September 12, 2016

Subject: Free Standing Emergency Department Destination Policy

Effective immediately, Milwaukee County EMS recognizes approved Free Standing Emergency Departments (FSED) as an additional community resource and transport destination for the appropriately identified EMS patient. Please refer to the attached Free Standing Emergency Department Destination Policy; a separate document from the Operational Policy entitled "Transport Destination" which identifies traditional acute care hospitals.

For a point of clarification, a FSED is NOT the same entity as an urgent care clinic.

Initial: 8/23/16
Reviewed/revised:
Revision: 1

**MILWAUKEE COUNTY EMS
OPERATIONAL POLICY
FREE STANDING EMERGENCY**

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DEPARTMENT (FSED) DESTINATION POLICY

- Milwaukee County EMS recognizes approved Free Standing Emergency Departments (FSED) as an additional community resource and transport destination for the appropriately identified EMS patient.
- FSED's can stabilize emergencies and arrange secondary transfer for patients that need traditional acute care hospital services.
- FSED's do not have in-patient beds, surgery suites, interventional labs, or other customary support services of traditional acute care hospitals.
- Secondary transfer from a FSED to an acute care hospital may have inherent delays to life or time-sensitive interventions and other immediate support needs of an acute care hospital regardless of a seamless transfer process.
- Secondary transfer from a FSED to a hospital may be associated with increased costs to patients (second ambulance bill, other professional services, etc.).
- MCEMS strongly recommends that the following patient types **NOT** be transported to a FSED*:
 - Meeting Level I/II trauma center criteria
 - Field identified STEMI
 - Field identified Stroke
 - Post-Cardiac Arrest Syndromes (ROSC)
 - Pregnant > 20 weeks of gestational age with obstetric related concerns
 - Meeting Burn Center Criteria
 - Open fractures
 - Major pediatric injury or illness
 - With advanced airway that is adequately managed

* If a patient is experiencing a life-threatening condition that is unable to be managed by EMS providers in the field and that will likely decompensate prior to reaching an acute care hospital, EMS providers can transport such patients to a FSED if it is the closest emergency department for stabilization.

Current Free Standing Emergency Departments within the Milwaukee County EMS response area

1.	Moorland Reserve Emergency Department of Froedtert and the Medical College of Wisconsin-Community Memorial Hospital; 4805 S. Moorland Road New Berlin, WI 53151
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