



Milwaukee County

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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NUMBERED NOTICE

Number: **21-05**

Date: 11/30/2021

From: Ben Weston, MD, MPH, Medical Director

To: All EMS Administrators and Providers, EMS Communications, Receiving Hospitals

Subject: Interfacility Transports

Purpose: Advisory

Situation

- Hospitals are calling municipal 911 ambulance services for interfacility transports (IFT); this creates confusion and conflict with agency operational policies, OEM medical practice guidelines, and hospital destination policies.
- Several agencies within the Milwaukee County EMS systems are not licensed for IFT by WI DHS.
- Using a 911 ambulance service for IFT may have a resource impact to communities.

Background

- EMS agencies are required to be licensed with the state for IFT. Agencies that are not licensed for IFT with the state undertake risk in performing IFTs with respect to a DHS 110 enforcement action.
- There are times when a lack of clarity for transport destination exists.

Assessment

- Clarification is required regarding 911 agencies performing IFT.

Recommendation

- Compliance with DHS 110 requires licensure for IFT in order to perform IFTs.
- Any transport of a patient from a hospital to another hospital should be considered IFT.
- In the event of an IFT, the destination hospital is determined by the transferring physician.
- If the EMS provider determines that the patient is deteriorating en route and needs immediate stabilization, they may deviate to a closer hospital per the OEM standards of care guidelines.
- State and OEM defined scope of practice remain in place for all patient care.

Please contact Dr. Ben Weston or Dan Pojar if you have any questions.

Ben Weston, MD, MPH, FAEMS
System Medical Director



The above information is reviewed and compiled
by the MCW Division of EMS Medicine