

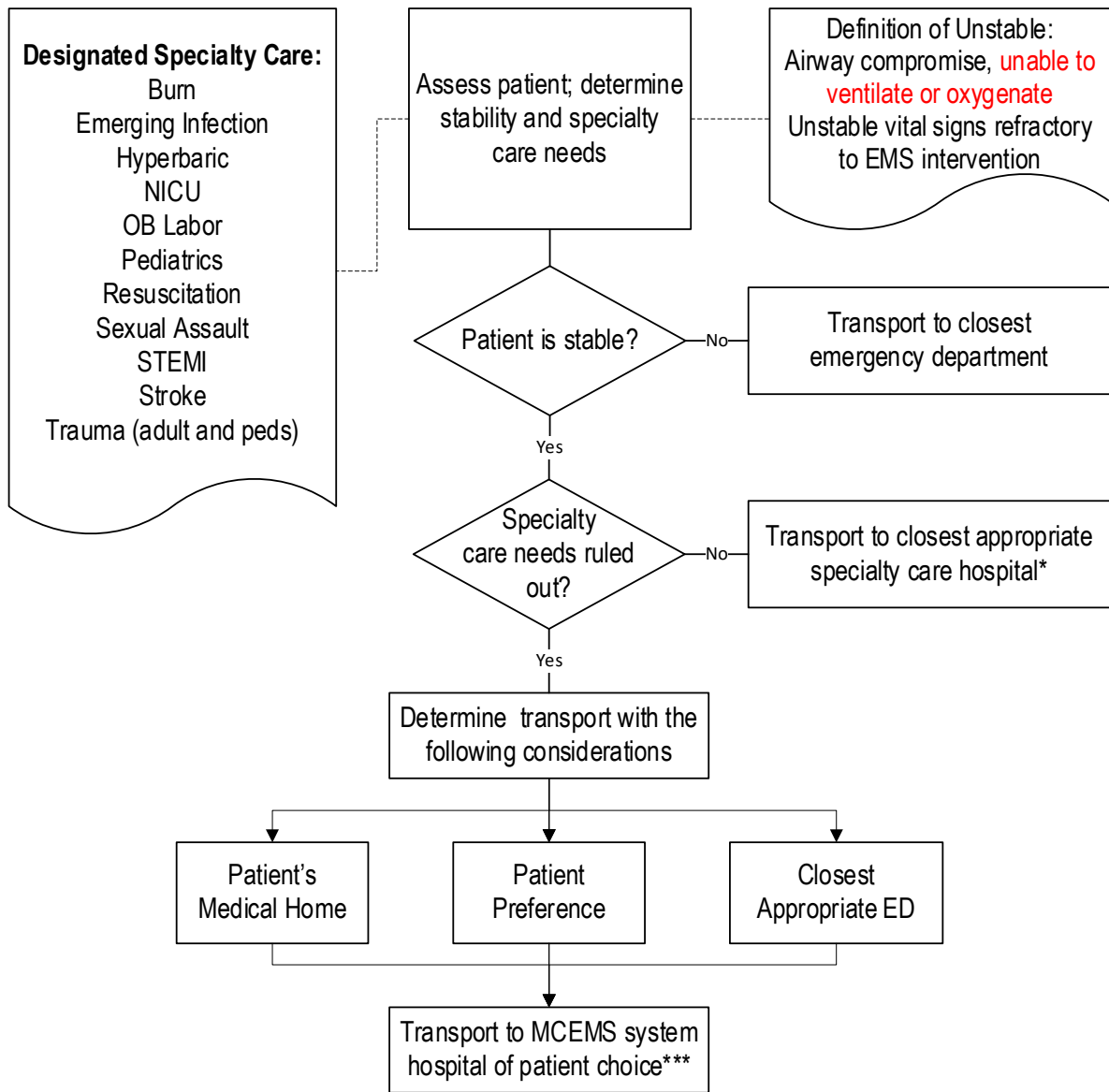


**HOSPITAL DESTINATION AND TRANSPORT  
Operational Policy**

**POLICY:** This policy provides principles and decision-making guidance for patients, EMS providers and hospitals within the Milwaukee County EMS system

**Guiding Principles**

- EMS and health care systems will partner to ensure access to safe and high quality care.
- Patients have the right to make informed health choices including hospital destination within the Milwaukee County EMS System. Care outside of an informed patient care choice may impact safety and quality, as well as pose economic risks.
- EMS providers should advocate for EMS transport during patient care interactions.





**HOSPITAL DESTINATION AND TRANSPORT  
Operational Policy**

<b>Emergency Departments</b>			
<b>Ascension:</b> All Saints (Racine) Elmbrook Memorial Franklin St. Francis St. Joseph St. Mary's Milwaukee St. Mary's Ozaukee *Ascension WI Greenfield *Ascension WI Menomonee Falls	<b>Aurora:</b> Grafton Mount Pleasant Sinai St. Luke's Medical Center St. Luke's South Shore West Allis Medical Center  <b>Children's Hospital and Health System</b> Children's Hospital of Wisconsin	<b>Froedtert Health:</b> Froedtert Froedtert Menomonee Falls *Froedtert Community Hospital Mequon *Froedtert Community Hospital New Berlin *Froedtert Community Hospital Oak Creek *Froedtert Community Hospital Pewaukee  <b>ProHealth Care:</b> Waukesha Memorial	<b>VA Medical Center (VA)</b> Zablocki VA Medical Center
<b>Specialty Care Conditions</b>	<b>Hospital</b>		
<b>Burn w/o major trauma</b> Age 18 and greater Age less than 18	Ascension: St. Mary's Milwaukee Children's Hospital of Wisconsin		
<b>Emerging Public Health Infectious Diseases</b>	As directed through the Milwaukee County Office of Emergency Management in conjunction with local, state, and federal public health authorities		
<b>Hyperbaric</b> (CO poison, dive related decompression)	Aurora: St. Luke's Medical Center		
<b>Neonatal Intensive Care Unit</b> (Unstable neonates delivered in the field)	Ascension: St. Joseph, St. Mary's Milwaukee, All Saints – Racine Aurora: Sinai, West Allis Medical Center Children's Hospital of Wisconsin**	NOTE: Facility where patient is receiving prenatal care is preferred	
<b>Obstetric patients in active labor</b> Hospitals w/obstetric services – facility where patient is receiving prenatal care is preferred. Patients should be transported to the ED; hospital staff can further transport to L+D etc. as per their internal policies.	Ascension: All Saint's Racine, Elmbrook, St. Joseph, St. Mary's Milwaukee, St. Mary's Ozaukee Aurora: Grafton, Sinai, West Allis Medical Center (Women's Pavilion) Froedtert: Froedtert Hospital ProHealth: Waukesha Memorial	NOTE: All emergency departments are equipped and required to receive OB patient in active labor if imminent delivery is occurring and transport to a hospital with obstetric care would pose a delivery risk.	
<b>Pediatric emergency, critical care and specialty services</b>	Children's Hospital of Wisconsin		
<b>Resuscitation</b> Sudden cardiac arrest, includes ROSC and patients transported w/CPR	Ascension: All Saint's Racine, Elmbrook, St. Mary's Milwaukee <i>(St Joseph removed 12/14/2024)</i> Aurora: Grafton, St. Luke's Medical Center Children's Hospital of Wisconsin Froedtert: Froedtert Hospital ProHealth: Waukesha Memorial		
<b>Sexual Assault</b> Age 18 and greater  Age less than 18	Ascension: All Saint's Racine, Elmbrook, Franklin, St. Francis, St. Joseph, St. Mary's Milwaukee, St. Mary's Ozaukee, Ascension WI Greenfield, Ascension WI Meno Falls Aurora: Mount Pleasant, Sinai, West Allis Medical Center (Women's Pavilion) Froedtert: Froedtert Hosp, Froedtert Meno Falls, Froedtert Comm Hosp: Mequon, New Berlin, Oak Creek, Pewaukee Children's Hospital of Wisconsin		
<b>STEMI</b> ST segment elevation myocardial infarction	Ascension: All Saint's Racine, Elmbrook, St. Mary's Milwaukee <i>(St Joseph removed 12/14/2024)</i> Aurora: Grafton, St. Luke's Medical Center Children's Hospital of Wisconsin Froedtert: Froedtert Hospital ProHealth: Waukesha Memorial		
<b>Stroke - LVO Negative</b> LKW less than 24 hours	<b>Transport to the closest Primary Stroke Center (PSC)</b> Ascension: All Saints Racine, Elmbrook, Franklin, St. Francis, St. Joseph, St. Mary's Milwaukee, St. Mary's Ozaukee Aurora: Grafton, Sinai, St. Luke's Medical Center, St. Luke's South Shore, West Allis Medical Center Children's Hospital of Wisconsin Froedtert: Froedtert Hospital, Froedtert Menomonee Falls ProHealth: Waukesha Memorial		
<b>Stroke - LVO Positive</b> LKW less than 24 hours	<b>Transport to closest Comprehensive Stroke Center (CSC):</b> Ascension: St. Mary's Milwaukee Aurora St. Luke's Medical Center Children's Hospital of Wisconsin Froedtert Hospital	NOTE: Direct transport to CSC if it does not add >15 min to closest PCS transport time	
<b>L I Trauma Centers</b> Age 18 and greater Age less than 18	Froedtert Hospital Children's Hospital of Wisconsin		
<b>L III Trauma Centers</b>	Ascension: All Saints Racine, St. Mary's Ozaukee Aurora: Grafton, St. Luke's Medical Center Froedtert: Froedtert Menomonee Falls ProHealth: Waukesha Memorial		

Note: Psychiatric emergencies can be properly cared for at any receiving facility ED

\*Limited Resource Hospital Emergency Department. See p.4

Initiated: 04/15/2015  
Reviewed/Revised: 12/14/2024  
Revision 14

Approved: Benjamin Weston, MD, MPH Medical Director  
Approved: Dan Pojar, BSEMS, FP-C, NRP EMS Division Director  
WI DHS EMS Approval: 06/09/2023

Pg 2 of 5



**HOSPITAL DESTINATION AND TRANSPORT  
Operational Policy**

<b>Receiving hospital for specialty care conditions</b>									
<i>Hospital</i>	<i>Stroke</i>	<i>RESUS</i>	<i>STEMI</i>	<i>Trauma</i>	<i>Burn</i>	<i>Unstable Newborn</i>	<i>Hyperbaric</i>	<i>Sexual Assault</i>	
Ascension <b>All Saints Racine</b>	Primary	Y	Y	Level 3	N	Y	N	Y	
Ascension <b>Elmbrook</b>	Primary	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	Y	
Ascension <b>Franklin</b>	Primary	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	
Ascension <b>St. Francis</b>	Primary	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	
Ascension <b>St. Joseph</b>	Primary	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	
Ascension <b>St. Mary's – Milwaukee</b>	Comprehensive LVO+	Y	Y	N	18 years & over	Y	N	Y	
Ascension <b>St. Mary's – Ozaukee</b>	Primary	N	N	Level 3	N	N	N	Y	
Ascension <b>Ascension WI – Greenfield</b> <i>*LRHED</i>	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	
Ascension <b>Ascension WI – Meno Falls</b> <i>*LRHED</i>	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	
Aurora <b>Grafton</b>	Primary	Y	Y	Level 3	N	N	N	N	
Aurora <b>Mount Pleasant</b>	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	
Aurora <b>Sinai</b>	Primary	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	
Aurora <b>St. Luke's Milwaukee</b>	Comprehensive LVO+	Y	Y	Level 3	N	N	CO without burns	N	
Aurora <b>St. Luke's – South Shore</b>	Primary	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	
Aurora <b>West Allis Medical Center</b>	Primary	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	
<b>Children's Hospital of Wisconsin</b>	Primary	Y	Y	L1	Under 18 years	Under 18 years	Y**	N	Under 18 years
Froedtert <b>Froedtert Hospital</b>	Comprehensive LVO+	Y	Y	L1	18 years & over	N	N**	N	Y
Froedtert <b>Froedtert Menomonee Falls</b>	Primary	N	N	Level 3	N	N	N	Y	
Froedtert <b>Froedtert CH – Mequon</b> <i>*LRHED</i>	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	
Froedtert <b>Froedtert CH – New Berlin</b> <i>*LRHED</i>	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	
Froedtert <b>Froedtert CH – Oak Creek</b> <i>*LRHED</i>	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	
Froedtert <b>Froedtert CH – Pewaukee</b> <i>*LRHED</i>	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	
Pro Health <b>Waukesha Memorial</b>	N	N	N	Level 3	N	N	N	N	
VA <b>Zablocki Medical Center</b>	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	

Note: Psychiatric emergencies can be properly cared for at any receiving facility ED

\*Limited Resource Hospital Emergency Department. See p.4

Initiated: 04/15/2015  
Reviewed/Revised: 12/14/2024  
Revision 14

Approved: Benjamin Weston, MD, MPH Medical Director  
Approved: Dan Pojar, BSEMS, FP-C, NRP EMS Division Director  
WI DHS EMS Approval: 06/09/2023

Pg 3 of 5



**\*Limited Resource Hospital Emergency Department Guiding Principles:**

Milwaukee County EMS recognizes approved Limited Resource Hospital Emergency Departments (LRHED) (aka Neighborhood or Micro Hospitals) as an additional community resource and transport destination for the appropriately identified EMS patient.

LRHED's can stabilize emergencies **of all ages** and arrange secondary transfer for patients that need traditional acute care hospital services.

LRHED's have in-patient capabilities/beds but the inpatient units usually **lack**:

1. Any specialty designations (Stroke, STEMI, RESUS, etc)
2. ICU level care
3. Any surgical capabilities
4. Any medical procedural/interventional capabilities (i.e. cath, EGD, bronchoscopy, etc)
5. Ancillary services (often no PT/OT, specialty care consults (varies), respiratory care, etc)

Secondary transfer from a LRHED 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 LRHED to a hospital may be associated with increased costs to patients (second ambulance bill, other professional services, etc.).

The following patients should **NOT** be transported to a LRHED\*\*:

- 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

**Note:** 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 Limited Resource Hospital ED if it is the closest emergency department for stabilization.

**\*\*Childbirth deliveries to mother/newborn co-transport**

At times following delivery in the field, mother and newborn may be transported in the same transporting unit with the use of appropriate securing devices for each patient. In those cases, the following guidance should be followed when determining the most appropriate hospital:

- **Stable** mom and **stable** baby: Obstetric Hospital ED
- **Unstable** mom and **stable** baby: Obstetric Hospital ED
- **Stable** mom and **unstable** baby: Neonatal ICU Hospital ED
- **Unstable** mom and **unstable** baby: transport separately to ED of the appropriate receiving hospital.
  - If need to transport together: Emergency Department of Obstetric hospital with Neonatal ICU
  - In cases of Froedtert and Children's Hospitals, transport to Froedtert ED instead of Children's ED)



**\*\*\*Hospital Access, BYPASS and Limited-Divert Conditions:**

The Milwaukee County EMS system recognizes EMResource as an important notification tool between hospital and EMS agencies and modifies the ALERT STATUS definitions to align with our system practice.

Hospital based emergency departments, Free-Standing Emergency Departments and in-patient hospitals may experience an inability to provide access for emergency department or hospital care (the ability to accept/admit to the hospital not reflecting emergency department status) due to two general situations:

1. **BYPASS** CONDITIONS:

A facility has sustained a major internal emergency (structural damage, environmental, HAZMAT, utilities failure, security, etc.) and cannot treat any patients, including self-referrals, by EMS or interfacility transfers. The emergency departments and/or hospitals should immediately inform the EMS system by changing the applicable ED Status and/or Hospital Status alert to **Bypass** on the EMResource website followed by phone notification to the Milwaukee County EMS Communication Center at 414.278.4343. Emergency departments and/or hospitals may delegate notification responsibility to EMS Communication Center during this phone call. The Milwaukee County EMS Communication Center will work with affiliated agencies to inform EMS of the **Bypass** condition. The emergency department or hospital will be closed to ambulance transports during this time period. The emergency department or hospital will inform the EMS system when the **Bypass** condition resolves by changing the status to "**OPEN**" on the EMResource website followed by phone notification to the Milwaukee County EMS Communication Center at 414.278.4343.

2. **LIMITED DIVERT** CONDITIONS:

A critical equipment failure or similar interruption that precludes providing emergency department access for special care needs (e.g. CT scanner failure precluding assessment for patients having stroke symptoms, interventional lab failure precluding stroke or STEMI care, etc.). Emergency departments should immediately inform the EMS system by changing the ED Status to **LIMITED DIVERT** on the EMResource website followed by phone notification to the Milwaukee County EMS Communication Center at 414.278.4343. Emergency departments and/or hospitals may delegate notification responsibility to EMS Communication Center during this phone call. The Milwaukee County EMS Communication Center will work with affiliated agencies to inform EMS of the **LIMITED DIVERT** condition. The emergency department will be closed for the specialty care condition but remain open to all other ambulance transports. The emergency department will inform the EMS system when the **LIMITED DIVERT** condition resolves by changing the ED status to "**OPEN**" on the EMResource website followed by phone notification to the Milwaukee County EMS Communication Center at 414.278.4343.

The Milwaukee County EMS Medical Director may further triage **LIMITED DIVERT** conditions and EMS transports based on the operational needs and capacities of the EMS system.

The Milwaukee County EMS System does not operationally recognize the **Peak Census** status definition on EMResource. Ambulances will not divert due to Peak Census status alone.