



LIGHTS AND SIREN WITH PATIENTS ONBOARD
Operational Policy

POLICY:

The decision to utilize warning lights and siren transport with a patient on-board is a medical decision and will be determined by the judgment of the highest level provider attending the patient.

Warning lights and siren transport may be appropriate with time sensitive conditions (such as Code Stroke, Code STEMI, or patients meeting physiologic or anatomic criteria for Level I/II trauma center transport), impending or obstructed airway concerns not responding to EMS intervention, or other conditions where EMS intervention is unable to manage the patient condition with resources available based on clinical judgment.

Warning lights and siren transport should not be used for patients not described above.

Use of warning lights and sirens will be documented on the patient care record.

- Use of warning lights and siren is a medical decision.
- Use of warning lights and siren has safety implications to patients, providers and the public.
- Use of warning lights and siren transport to the hospital has little impact on patient care outcome.
- Use of warning lights and siren saves very little time based on scientific literature.
- The provision of ALS care and mode of transport are independent; one does not necessarily determine the other.
- Traffic conditions should not be a determining factor in absence of a truly life-saving or time sensitive emergency.
- Mode of transport is an important tool in developing a culture of patient safety.