



**PARAMEDIC EVALUATION, TRANSPORT, UPGRADE or TURN DOWN
Operational Policy**

POLICY:

A Paramedic evaluation is defined as a medical assessment by a Milwaukee County Full Practice Paramedic with the ability to perform a 12 lead ECG as well as other diagnostic and therapeutic skills outlined in the Scope of Practice Policy and listed below. Transport of certain patients may be conveyed by EMT, AEMT or IEMT services if the Paramedic determines that the patient is stable and **all** patient care needs can be appropriately managed by an EMT, AEMT or IEMT except as outlined below. The transfer of care from a Paramedic to an EMT, AEMT or IEMT must adhere to the Transfer of Care Policy and the Paramedic is required to complete a full patient care report outlining the medical decision-making elements for the transfer of care.

This policy cannot list every situation in which a Paramedic evaluation or transport should occur—therefore, the guiding principle centers on the commitment to match patient needs with the most appropriate EMS providers while balancing the overall system resources.

The following patient **MEDICAL PRESENTATIONS** require paramedic evaluation WITH A 12 LEAD ECG:

1. Non-traumatic chest pain age >35
2. Acute Coronary Syndrome equivalents age >35: sudden and unexplained nausea, vomiting, dyspnea, diaphoresis, non-traumatic back or epigastric pain especially in women, the elderly, patients with previous cardiac history, diabetes, renal failure/dialysis, or recent stimulant drug use
3. Syncope with CHF history, evidence of bleeding, shortness of breath, or age related hypotension

The following patient **MEDICAL PRESENTATIONS** require medical evaluation and transport by a Milwaukee County paramedic ambulance*:

1. Ischemic 12 lead ECG (contiguous ST elevation and/or depression)
2. Paramedic clinical judgment or suspicion of early and evolving Acute Coronary Syndrome
3. History or physical examination reveals a potentially life-threatening situation not otherwise listed OR abnormal vital signs with symptoms of distress (see chart below):
4. Sudden and unexplained altered mental status
5. Obstetric patients with severe vaginal bleeding, eclampsia/pre-eclampsia, imminent delivery, breech presentation, prolapsed umbilical cord or evidence of fetal or neonatal distress
6. Seizure without mental status improvement for more than 5 minutes
7. Syncope with high risk features
8. EMT, AEMT, or IEMT-initiated procedures*:
 - a. epinephrine for anaphylaxis
 - b. CPAP
 - c. albuterol if bronchospasm is not completely relieved (patient with symptom resolution may be transported by EMT, AEMT, or IEMT ambulance)
 - d. dextrose or glucagon if patient remains altered or if blood glucose remains less than 60 mg/dl (patient with symptom resolution may be transported by EMT, AEMT, or IEMT ambulance)
 - e. naloxone if patient remains altered with potential airway compromise (patient with normal respiratory effort may be transported by EMT, AEMT, or IEMT)

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Approved: Benjamin Weston, MD, MPH Medical Director
Approved: Dan Pojar, BSEMS, FP-C, NRP EMS Division Director

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The following patient TRAUMA PRESENTATIONS require medical evaluation and transport by a Milwaukee County paramedic ambulance*:

1. Patients meeting any of the Trauma Field Triage Guidelines
 - a. Physiologic
 - i. GCS \leq 13
 - ii. Age associated hypotension
 - iii. Respiratory rate $<$ 10 or $>$ 29 ($<$ 20 for infants)
 - iv. One or more abnormalities with the Pediatric Assessment Triangle (Appearance, Work of breathing, Circulation to skin)
 - b. Anatomic
 - i. All penetrating injuries to head, neck, torso, and extremities proximal to elbow or knee
 - ii. Chest wall instability or deformity
 - iii. Two or more suspected fractures including the femur or humerus
 - iv. Crushed, degloved, mangled, or pulseless extremity
 - v. Partial or complete amputation proximal to wrist or ankle
 - vi. Pelvic fracture/unstable pelvis
 - vii. Open or depressed skull fracture
 - viii. New onset paralysis
 - c. Mechanism
 - i. Falls of greater than 20 feet (adult) or greater than 2 times the height of child (pediatric)
 - ii. Auto crash:
 1. Intrusion $>$ 12 inches of occupant site or $>$ 18 inches any site
 2. Ejection (partial or complete) from automobile
 3. Death of passenger in same vehicle compartment
 - iii. Auto vs. pedestrian/bicyclist thrown, run over, or with impact $>$ 20 mph
 - iv. Motorcycle crash $>$ 20 mph
 - d. Special considerations: The following patients are at higher risk of injury and death from trauma. These patients may be transported by BLS, AEMT, or IEMT, but should be transported to a trauma center.
 1. Injured patients $>$ age 65
 2. Patients taking anticoagulants and those with bleeding disorders (Hemophilia)
 3. Pregnancy $>$ 22 weeks
 4. EMS provider judgment
2. Burns to face, airway, or body surface area greater than 18%
3. Tourniquet/hemostatic agent application
4. History or physical examination reveals a potentially life-threatening situation not otherwise listed OR abnormal vital signs with symptoms of distress (see chart below):

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**Exceptional situations may arise when a patient requiring paramedic evaluation and transport may be conveyed by an EMT, AEMT or IEMT level ambulance service as outlined in the "Load and Go-Deviation From Paramedic Evaluation and Transport" Operational Policy.*

Abnormal Vital Signs

Pediatric Age - HEART RATE	Awake Heart Rate	Sleeping Heart Rate
Newborn to 3 months	<85 or > 205	<80 or > 160
3 months to 2 years	<100 or > 190	<75 or > 160
2 years to 10 years	<60 or > 140	<60 or > 90
>10 years	<60 or > 100	<50 or > 90

Pediatric Age - RESPIRATORY RATE	Respiratory Rate	Pulse Ox
Infant (less than 1 year of age)	<30 or > 60	<94%
Toddler	<24 or > 40	<94%
Preschooler	<22 or > 34	<94%
School Age	<18 or > 30	<94%
Adolescent	<12 or > 16	<94%

Pediatric Age - BLOOD PRESSURE	Systolic BP mm/Hg	Capillary Refill Time
Term neonate (< 28 days)	< 60	> 3 seconds
Infant (1 month to 12 months)	< 70	> 3 seconds
Children (1 to 10 years)	< 70 + (Age in years x 2)	> 3 seconds
Children > 10 years	< 90	> 3 seconds

ADULT	Heart Rate	Respiratory Rate	BP mm/Hg	Capillary Refill Time	Pulse Ox
Adult (>40 Kg or 14 years of age)	< 50 or > 110	< 12 or > 16	< 90 or > 220	> 3 seconds	< 94%

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