



## Delaware Office of Emergency Medical Services

### Free Standing Emergency Department Destination Policy

#### DISPOSITION

##### 1. Destination

a) **Priority 1** patients shall be triaged according to Delaware Basic Life Support Protocols, Guidelines and Standing Orders and Paramedic Standing Orders, Guidelines and Policies (Delaware EMS Protocols) to the closest appropriate hospital-based emergency department, designated trauma or designated specialty referral center. Critically unstable patients in need of immediate life-saving interventions that cannot be provided in the field shall, with the approval of a Delaware On-Line Medical Control consultation, be diverted to the closest facility (including freestanding medical facility) capable of immediately providing those interventions.

b) **Priority 2** patients shall be triaged according to the Delaware EMS Protocols to the closest appropriate hospital-based emergency department, designated trauma or designated specialty referral center unless otherwise directed by a Delaware On-Line Medical Control consultation.

c) **Priority 3** patients who do not need a time critical intervention may be transported to the local emergency department or freestanding medical facility.

#### TRANSPORT TO FREESTANDING MEDICAL FACILITY

##### 1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this protocol is to define the type of patient an EMS service may transport to a Delaware Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) designated freestanding emergency department. This does not include medical aid units, express care, quick care or any other physician office level of care facility.

##### 2. INDICATIONS

A county may allow transport of a patient meeting one or more of the following indications to an Office of Emergency Medical Services approved freestanding emergency department.

a) **Priority 3** patient as outlined in the Delaware Basic Life Support Protocols, Guidelines and Standing Orders and Paramedic Standing Orders, Guidelines and Policies (Delaware EMS Protocols) who does not need a time-critical intervention.



**b) Priority 1** patient with an unsecured airway or in extremis that requires stabilization beyond the capability of the EMS crew (e.g., cardiac or respiratory arrest).

### **3. CONTRAINDICATIONS**

Except as provided in #2, the following patients shall not be transported to a freestanding emergency department.

a) Any patient meeting the **criteria for transport to a trauma center or specialty referral center** as defined in the Delaware EMS Protocols.

b) A **pregnant patient** complaining of abdominal pain or a patient who is in active labor.

c) Any patient in need of time-critical intervention that can be provided only at a hospital-based emergency department.

### **4. PROCEDURE**

If the patient does not meet the above indications or contraindications for destination, the EMS provider shall consult with a Delaware on-line medical control physician (freestanding emergency department) prior to arrival. The Delaware on-line medical control consultation shall direct the provider to the appropriate destination for the patient. It is recommended that the EMS provider contact Delaware on-line medical control prior to leaving the scene.

### **5. SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

None

Approved by DEMSOC: February 27, 2013

Effective: March 11, 2013