

**Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board  
POLICY & PROCEDURES MANUAL**

Section: G. Emergency Medical Services	Effective Date: May 30, 2010
Topic: 4. Operations Directives	Replaces: July 1, 2004
Subject: 28. Multiple Patient Transport	
Policy No. G.4.28.	Page 1 of 2

**PURPOSE**

To ensure Paramedics/EMAs understand employment requirements when required to transport more than one patient at a time.

**APPLICATION**

Paramedics, EMAs

**PROCEDURE**

- 1) Paramedics/EMAs will ensure the safety and security of each patient
- 2) Emergency Situations:
  - a) When presented with an emergency scene with multiple patients, the EMA/Paramedic will consider:
    - The number of patients who can be given appropriate care while en route to a medical facility.
    - The condition of the patients, the time factor and the environmental conditions in relation to the arrival of a second vehicle.
    - The possibility of transporting one or more patients to a point to meet with a second vehicle.
  - b) In a situation where the number of patients requiring care exceeds the capabilities of one ambulance, the first ambulance will remain on the scene rendering care until the arrival of a second vehicle.
- 3) Non Emergency Situations:
  - a) When the ambulance crew is assigned by dispatch to a multiple patient transfer they will assess the condition of each patient and determine if they can be transported together as per the Ambulance Act. The ambulance crew have the final decision in approving a multiple patient transfer based on the patient condition.
  - b) Patients not considered suitable for multiple patient transport are patients:
    - who are categorised as a CTAS 1 or 2 (CTAS 3 patients may be deemed suitable at the paramedic's discretion according to patient assessment).
    - whose condition may be a source of embarrassment or discomfort to either patient; suspected/diagnosed with a communicable disease; or
    - with a Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) Order if the EMA or Paramedic, through patient assessment and consultation with sending facility health care providers/escorts, feels that respiratory or cardiorespiratory arrest is imminent.

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- 4) Paramedics/EMAs have the final decision in approving multiple patient transports.
- If the ambulance crew decides that a patient is not suitable for a multiple patient transfer they will advise the CACC and document their decision as per the Documentation Standards on an incident report.
- 5) Transportation
- a) The ambulance crew will ensure that:
- The patients have been informed that they will be travelling with another patient.
  - At no time will any one patient be left unattended. Assistance must be obtained in the situation where a paramedic crew has two patients without escorts (loading and unloading will be done with the assistance of a hospital porter/attendant or responsible person).
  - Each patient is covered in an appropriate manner (especially when the patients are of the opposite sex).

## REFERENCE

Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board, *Emergency First Response – ERV's*, Policy and Procedure G. 4.4.

Ministry of Health, Emergency Services Branch, *Documentation Standards*, The Crown in Right of the Province of Ontario

Emergency Health Services Branch (2007), *Basic Life Support Patient Care Standard, Version 2.0*, Ministry of Health and Long Term Care

Ambulance Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. A.19 and Regulations, Queens Printer for Ontario