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<b>POLICY:</b>	<b>HOSPITAL EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT BYPASS – RESOURCE LIMITATIONS – 300.21</b>		
<b>APPROVAL:</b>	<b>VICE PRESIDENT OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICES; MANAGER OF EMS;</b>		
<b>EFFECTIVE DATE: 9/1/2016</b>	<b>CURRENT REVIEW/REVISION DATE: 8/16</b>	<b>SUPERSEDES: N/A</b>	<b>ORIGINAL EFFECTIVE DATE: 08/16</b>
<b>DEPARTMENT SPECIFIC</b>		<b>EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM</b>	

**I. Purpose:**

Due to resource limitations, it may be necessary for a hospital emergency department to declare bypass. The following procedures should be followed.

**II. Procedure:**

- A. Effective September 1, 2004, hospitals must utilize the web-based Illinois Department of Public Health Hospital Bypass System (now EM Resource). When a hospital has determined any of the following circumstances, a representative of the hospital must notify the Resource Hospital and all other Morris Hospital Emergency Medical Services (EMS) System Associate Hospitals:
  - 1. Hospital status has changed from open to peak census
  - 2. Hospital status has changed from peak census to bypass
  - 3. Hospital status has changed from peak census or bypass to open
  
- B. Pre-hospital providers should also be notified when a hospital goes on emergency department bypass and when they go off.
  
- C. Information that must be included in the notification is as follows:
  - 1. Circumstances that initiated the decision for emergency department bypass
  - 2. Estimate the time the hospital expects to resume normal activity
  - 3. Names of contact personnel at the hospital if additional communication becomes necessary
  
- D. The hospital shall notify the Illinois Department of Public Health Division of Emergency Medical Systems during the next business day following any bypass or resource limitation decision. This notification can be faxed. Faxed paper reports are not required if bypass is reported electronically.
  
- E. Radio and telemetry calls will continue to be handled in the normal manner with the decision to divert ambulances to the next closest, most appropriate hospital being approved/disapproved on a case-by-case basis.
  
- F. The hospital should update the Resource Hospital and the web-based EM Resource of its estimated time for discontinuation of bypass status every four hours.
  
- G. When the hospital has determined that resources are available to resume care, they will again contact the Resource Hospital, the web-based EM Resource and all pre-hospital providers in the System of the discontinuation of their emergency department bypass status.

**Approval:**



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**Thomas J. Dohm** **Date**  
**VP of Professional Services**

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**Robin Stortz, RN** **Date**  
**Manager of EMS**