

POLICY:	200.20 AEROMEDICAL HELICOPTER		
APPROVAL:	VICE PRESIDENT OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICES; MANAGER OF EMS;		
EFFECTIVE DATE: 2/15/2024			ORIGINAL EFFECTIVE DATE: 08/16
DEPARTMENT SPECIFIC		EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES	

I. PURPOSE:

Morris Hospital Emergency Management System (EMS) understands that aeromedical helicopter transport from a scene could be beneficial to some patients. This policy serves as a guideline on when to utilize aeromedical services.

II. POLICY:

In order for helicopter transports to be the optimal delivery method for the patient, the following (2) conditions must be satisfied:

- A.** The patient must be so critically injured that the time it will take to reach a definitive care facility becomes vital. This means the patient should have life-threatening injury or medical condition that requires rapid transportation and/or specialized medical intervention. If this condition is met, helicopter transport becomes an accepted and approved mode for patient delivery.
- B.** The helicopter must be the quickest method of delivering the patient to a trauma center/tertiary care center. **NOTE:** Helicopter transport time includes the initial call to the aeromedical network dispatch center, lift-off, flight to the scene, landing, loading of patient, and return flight time to the trauma center/tertiary care center.

If this total time is less than the time it will take to load the patient in an ambulance, including extrication time if required, and to travel by ground to the closest trauma center/tertiary care center, then helicopter transport again becomes an accepted and approved mode for patient delivery.

III. SYSTEM NOTIFICATION OF HELICOPTER UTILIZATION:

- A.** If a System provider agency utilizes a helicopter for patient transport from the scene, you are required to notify the resource hospital of the event.
- B.** Resource hospital notification should be performed as soon as possible, preferably before the helicopter arrives at the scene. If that is not possible, the EMS providers on scene are required to contact the resource hospital within a reasonable time after the helicopter has departed for its destination. The purpose is to monitor helicopter transport occurrences within the System for quality assurance and proper utilization.
- C.** The EMS ambulance report should reflect a detailed explanation of events that required helicopter transport.

NOTE: Helicopters should be used only when they can accomplish the best in care for the patient.

Approval:

James Kirchner **Date**
Vice President of Professional Services

Kathleen Geiger MSN, RN **Date**
Manager of EMS & Emergency Management