

## Memorial Medical Center/Saint John's Hospital EMS Systems Joint System Policy on Aeromedical Evacuation Requests

**I. Purpose:** Provide mechanism for ground ambulance crews and EMS responders to request a scene response by a helicopter air ambulance when specific criteria exist.

**II. Applicability:** This policy applies to all levels of transport and non-transport agencies within the EMS Systems.

### III. Criteria:

- A. Category 1 trauma or seriously ill patient in remote or off-road location not easily accessible to ground ambulances, or whose location may cause delay in transport time.
- B. MVC or incident where prolonged extrication time is anticipated (>30 minutes).
- C. Special environmental conditions such as extreme heat or cold which affect potential patient outcome or prohibit ground access to the hospital (road or bridge damage).
- D. No available trauma center within **45 minutes** ground transport time.
- E. Reduction in transport time to a trauma center compared to ground transport for the seriously injured patient.
- F. Ground transport resources are exhausted or exceeded (mass-casualty or multiple calls).

### IV. Procedure:

- A. All requests for an on-scene helicopter response will be coordinated through the appropriate Resource or Associate hospital's medical control point. EMS agencies will not initiate a request for an on-scene helicopter response without approval from the appropriate medical control.
  - 1. When dispatch information indicates the existence of any of the above criteria consideration may be given for an on-scene response.
  - 2. After arrival at the scene and completion of the assessment by the ambulance crew determine need for on-scene response.
  - 3. Contact appropriate medical control with assessment and request approval.
  - 4. Response will be requested by the on-scene prehospital provider at the highest level of training.
  - 5. Patients considered for helicopter transport should have some viable signs of life.
- B. If approved by medical control, EMS agency will contact the helicopter service directly and provide them with scene location and pertinent patient information.
- C. Landing Zone Criteria:
  - 1. Landing Zone designation and preparation will usually be the responsibility of the responding fire department. If time permits, it is advisable for the ambulance crew to evaluate the landing zone for safety.
  - 2. General requirements:
    - a. Solid, fairly flat surface
    - b. Free of potentially loose debris
    - c. Free of obstacles such as trees, power/telephone/light poles, wires, vehicles, animals or people
    - d. Should be located approximately 100 yards from the scene.
  - 3. Landing Zone dimensions: 100X100 feet at all times.

- E. Patient preparation:
  - 1. Treat illness/injury per protocol.
  - 2. Utilize full spinal immobilization for trauma patients.
  - 3. Package all patients for transport on a long spine board.
  - 4. Secure all loose objects.
  - 5. Provide a concise report to the helicopter crew.
  - 6. **Do Not approach the aircraft unless signaled to do so by a crew member.**
  - 7. **Always approach the aircraft from the front.**
  - 8. **Follow flight crew instructions at all times.**
- F. Once the aircraft has departed the scene with the patient, the requesting agency will contact medical control and advise them of patient destination and ETA to receiving facility.