

EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT POLICIES

SUBJECT: Interhospital transfer	NO. 4.2
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Original Date of Issue: 4/2003

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Patient Population

Neonate	√
Pediatric	√
Adolescent	√
Adult	√
Geriatric	√

POLICY: The transfer of patients to and from health care institutions is regulated by the Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA). This regulation ensures that only patients requiring a higher level of care than can be provided by a health care facility or stable patients are transferred. In addition when a patient is transferred, institutions must communicate the to designated personel the condition and reason for transport and the patient must be accompanied by proper medical monitoring and patient documents.

IMPLEMENTATION: A patient may not be transferred to another institution unless a medical screening exam has been provided and the patient is stable or the institution can not provide the necessary level of specialty care required by the patient (for example: burn, psychiatric, pediatric, ob/gyn, trauma, reimplantation, or neurosurgery). The patient may specifically request transfer or refuse transfer as long as they understand risks to patient for requesting, accepting, or refusing transfer.

Under these circumstances transfer may occur only after the designated health care agent at the transferring institution communicates with the designated personnel at the receiving institution. If a facility requests Mount Sinai to receive transfer of a patient for higher level of care and we have said services we will accept the patient. The designated person for tranfers to and from the Emergency Department at Mount Siani Hospital is the Emergency Department attending physican.

The patient must be accompanied by the appropriate level of monitoring and staff to provide care for forcceable complications during transport. These provisions are the responsibility of the transferring facility. At Mount Sinai the Emergency Department Nursing Director or the Evening and Night Nursing Administrators are responsible for providing copies of patient records including medical chart, tranfer form, laboratory results and radiographic films.

The need for monitoring or treatment of a patient during transport by medical personnel will detemined by the Emergency Department attending. When it is determined there is

such a need a licensed physician or nurse qualified to give emergency care will be provided.

Transport is arranged by calling a private ambulance service or through the Fire Department of the City of New York Emergency Medical Services if referring patient to Specialty Referral Centers
(See Policy 4.1 for Specialty Referral Centers and criteria)