PURPOSE

To insure proper utilization of helicopters in regards to pre-hospital transport to a trauma center.

MISSION / VALUES RATIONALE

This policy is aligned with the Mission and Values for Amita Health. Our mission calls us to provide compassionate, holistic care with a spirit of healing and hope for all persons in the communities we serve. Our ministry is an enduring sign of our Core Values of HOPE, to instill us with integrity, inspire us to interconnect with each other, encourage us to honor diversity and dignity of each individual and empower us to always strive for exceptional performance to our patients/residents and to best serve those in need.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS/FORMS TO BE USED

N/A

PROCEDURE

I. In order for helicopter transports to be the optimal delivery method for the patient, two (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 a life-threatening injury 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. Multiple critically ill or injured patients are involved

C. Patient has sustained an obvious injury or illness requiring possible transfer to a tertiary care facility (burn, spinal cord, unresponsive carbon monoxide poisoning, scuba accident, CVA)

II. The helicopter must be the quickest method of delivering the patient to a trauma center or most appropriate hospital.

A. Helicopter transport time includes:
Subject: Utilization of Helicopter Transport from Field to Hospital

I. Initial Steps
1. The initial call to the aeromedical network dispatch center.
2. Lift-off
3. Flight to the scene
4. Landing
5. Loading of patient
6. Return flight time to the trauma center

B. 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, then helicopter transport again becomes an accepted and approved mode for patient delivery.

C. When a helicopter is en-route and EMS has determined that ground transportation can be done more expeditiously, it is required for EMS to cancel the helicopter and transfer by ground. (i.e., EMS was able to extricate the patient quicker than was estimated.)

III. Information Needed When Calling for a Helicopter

A. Access Information
1. Name of requesting agency and call back number
2. Type and extent of injuries
3. Location, major cross streets, landmarks, etc.
4. Ground contact unit and frequency

B. Landing Zone Requirements
1. Follow department policies

C. Safety Precautions
1. Keep vehicles, personnel, and bystanders back at least 100 feet
2. Protect patient from blowing debris and rotor wash
3. Do not approach aircraft unless signaled to do so by the pilot.
4. Approach aircraft from the front. Remain clear of the tail rotor.
5. Do not attempt to open or close aircraft doors.
6. Do not raise anything above your head (IV poles, etc.)
7. Assist loading patient only if requested.
8. Follow flight crew’s instructions at all times.

D. Phone Numbers for Contacting Helicopter Services
1. Loyola Lifestar: 1-866-480-6030
2. UCAN: 1-800-621-7827
IV. System Notification of Helicopter Utilization

   A. Resource hospital notification should be performed as soon as possible.

   B. an EMS ambulance report should be completed documenting what has transpired
      between the EMS arrival and the Air Transport Service’s arrival. The EMS report should
      reflect a detailed explanation of events that required helicopter transport and forwarded to
      the EMS office.

Kevin Bernard
Department Leader

DATE: 03/29/2019

NOTE: Policies with original signatures are on file in Administration.