

POLICY: Ambulance Utilization	POLICY NUMBER: EHS 2003-09-06
ORIGINAL DATE: November 12, 1982	LAST REVISED DATE: November 1, 2005

I. PURPOSE:

- A. To eliminate abuse of the ambulance system by setting standards for appropriate ambulance utilization.
- B. Inform operators, the medical community and other stakeholders of the standards applicable to appropriate ambulance utilization.
- C. Outline penalties if noncompliance to this policy is identified.

II. POLICY:

- A. Persons not requiring a stretcher, oxygen, the use of other ambulance equipment to a significant degree or continuing medical assessment/supervision during transport do not warrant transport by an ambulance. If the need for ambulance transport is questionable, the ambulance personnel shall contact the closest medical facility for advice.
- B. Except in emergencies ambulance utilization must be authorized by an attending physician or nurse in accordance with Departmental policies.
- C. All invoices for trips done which are contrary to policies, procedures and standards may be reviewed by the Department and payment may be refused or monies may be recovered. *(Penalties on hold until reviewed by the provincial medical director.)*

III. PROCEDURE:

- A. To eliminate delays and/or payment refusals, operators are to ensure a clear diagnosis with full supporting details of why an ambulance is medically necessary is documented on each invoice.
- B. The operator is to ensure ambulance transports are performed because of the patient's medical need for ambulance services.

IV. RESPONSIBILITY:

- A. It is the responsibility of the operator to ensure an ambulance is actually needed for each patient and that they are not providing service for the purposes of convenience.
- B. It is the responsibility of the operator to ensure each ambulance transport is properly authorized.
- C. It is the responsibility of the Department of Health and Community Services to monitor transports of a questionable nature to ensure this policy is adhered to. The Department reserves the right to enforce this policy retroactively and recover monies inappropriately paid.