



GOVERNMENT OF
NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
Board Service

POLICY: Ambulance Routing	POLICY NUMBER: EHS 2003-09-04
ORIGINAL DATE: November 29, 1988	LAST REVISED DATE: November 1, 2005

I. PURPOSE:

- A. To establish the standards in which an ambulance operator will receive the ambulance road subsidy for kilometers traveled while in the appropriate performance of an ambulance call.

II. POLICY:

- A. The Department of Health and Community Services will only pay mileage subsidies based on the shortest distance necessary to transport a patient from one location to another and then return to base. For emergency transports, the ambulance may travel the longer route if it results in a faster and/or safer transport.
- B. Ambulances are required to return to their assigned base of operation by the shortest route given the patient's final destination.
- C. Charges for positioning of ambulances from base to base and their subsequent return will not be paid.
- D. Except for the circumstances outlined in the policy applicable to calls originating in the St. John's metropolitan area, the Department shall not pay additional mileage associated with the return of facility medical escorts.

III. PROCEDURE:

- A. Ambulance personnel shall always take the shortest appropriate route during a transport whenever possible.
- B. If a route, other than the shortest route possible is used, a valid explanation must be documented on the invoice form detailing why the extra kilometers were needed, in order for the operator to receive compensation for the extra kilometers. Without an explanation, the operator will only be paid the amount equal to the shortest distance needed to provide the transport and not the extra mileage indicated on the invoice.

IV. RESPONSIBILITY:

- A. In an emergency response, it is the responsibility of the operator to ensure that ambulance personnel always take the fastest and or safest route possible. In a routine response, the shortest route possible.
- B. It is the responsibility of the ambulance personnel operating the ambulance to take subject to A the shortest and/or fastest and/or safer route possible and record the mileage accurately.
- C. It is the responsibility of the Department of Health and Community Services to check mileages to ensure that payment is made only for the shortest distance needed subject to A to perform the transport.