



GOVERNMENT OF
NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
Board Services

POLICY: Continuation Trips	POLICY NUMBER: EHS 2004-05-02
ORIGINAL DATE: November 1, 2005	REVISED DATE: N/A

I. PURPOSE:

- A. To define a continuation trip as allowed by the Department.
- B. To set maximum wait times which will be allowed to facilitate a continuation trip.

II. POLICY:

- A. A continuation trip shall be defined as when an ambulance service transports a patient to a medical facility, the patient is assessed and treated and then requires an ambulance transport to another facility or an ambulance transfer back to their point of origin.
- B. To ensure maximum emergency coverage is available at one ambulance bases, continuation trips are not permitted outside of the ambulance operators base service area if an ambulance from a multi-ambulance base can respond to the original facility prior to the patient being ready for the second transport. This time will vary by facility, due to the location of the closest multi-ambulance base.
- C. If the original call was of **an emergency nature** the ambulance service that provided the initial transport shall only be allowed to perform any subsequent transports if the patient is ready for **an emergency** transport within 1 ½ hours and the original ambulance unit that transported the patient is not needed back in its base area for emergency coverage and it remains at the patients location. Excessive waiting (longer then 1 ½ hours) will not be allowed.
- D. One ambulance bases shall only perform continuation trips outside of their base service area if they are of an emergency nature and section II. B. applies.
- E. If the original call was of a **routine nature** for a scheduled appointment and the ambulance transporting the patient is from a multi-ambulance base, there is an ambulance available in the base area to provide emergency coverage and the original ambulance unit that transported the patient remains at the patients location, then wait time in excess of 1 ½ hours to a maximum of 3 hours to allow the performance of a **continuation trip** is permissible but not mandatory and is up to the discretion of the operator if they are willing and/or able to wait the extended period.
- F. Trips performed in violation of this policy shall not be honored for payment.

III. PROCEDURE:

- A. The ambulance that originally transported the patient shall be the only ambulance that can perform a continuation trip.

- B. The ambulance that originally transported the patient must wait for the patient in order to be considered for a continuation trip
- C. The ambulance personnel shall check with the facility staff to determine if the patient will require a second transport within the above mentioned time frame.
- D. For emergency patient's, if it is indicated that the patient will remain at the facility longer than the time frame indicated above then the ambulance shall return to its base.
- E. Trips performed in violation of this policy shall not be processed for payment and/or monies shall be recovered from the operator if payment for the transport had been made.
- F. Only one PCR form shall be completed when a patient is transported in conjunction with this policy.

IV. RESPONSIBILITY:

- A. It is the responsibility of the operator to ensure they maintain emergency coverage while waiting for a continuation trip.
- B. It is the responsibility of the operator and ambulance personnel to ensure an ambulance does not wait in excess of the time indicated for emergency continuation transports.
- C. It is the responsibility of the Department to ensure that transports in violation of this policy are not honored for payment.