LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER
- SHREVEPORT

TRANSFER OF UNSTABLE EMERGENCY AND TRAUMA PATIENTS
FROM OTHER HOSPITALS

Policy:
To provide a mechanism to facilitate the appropriate transfer of Emergency patients as defined by the Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act (EMTALA) statutes from other hospitals. As a Level I Trauma Center, LSUHSC will accept all requests for trauma patient transfers regardless of residence. LSUHSC-Shreveport never goes on diversion for trauma patients.

Definitions:
A. The term “emergency medical condition” means,

1. A medical condition manifesting itself by acute symptoms of sufficient severity (including severe pain) such that the absence of immediate medical attention could reasonably be expected to result in:

   a. placing the health of the individual (or, with respect to a pregnant women, the health of the woman or her unborn child) in serious jeopardy, or
   b. serious impairment of bodily functions, or
   c. serious dysfunction of any bodily organ or part

2. With respect to a pregnant woman who is having contractions:

   a. that there is inadequate time to effect a safe transfer to another hospital before delivery, or
   b. that transfer may pose a threat to the health or safety of the woman or the unborn child.

B. The term “stabilized” means with respect to an emergency medical condition, that no material deterioration of the condition is likely, within reasonable medical probability, to result from or occur during the transfer of the individual from a facility, or, with respect to a woman in labor, she has delivered (including the placenta).

Procedure:
A. Requests from other health care providers to transfer patients who have an emergency medical condition as defined by EMTALA and require emergency and tertiary level medical care not available at that facility should be immediately approved when services, space, facilities, and personnel are available to provide appropriate care.

1. When the facility making the transfer request is capable of providing the necessary care, that facility must stabilize the emergency medical condition as defined by EMTALA prior to transfer (See the Hospital Policy 2.9.1 for transfer of stable non-emergent patients).

2. When the transferring facility is requesting the transfer of an unstable patient, the following conditions must be met:
a. The physician requesting the transfer will verify that the expected benefits of transfer outweigh the risks of transfer and the Transfer Center Nurse accepting this call will document this verification in the Central Logic Log;
b. There must be patient or family consent when possible;
c. Attempts made by the transferring hospital, within its capability, to stabilize the patient in order to minimize any risks of the individual during transfer;
d. Agreement by LSUHSC to accept the transfer, assuring our capacity and capability to treat the transferred patient;
e. Delivery of all appropriate medical records to LSUHSC;
f. The transfer must be made with qualified personnel and transportation equipment.

B. If an emergency patient requires services not available at LSUHSC, the transfer shall be refused with a recommendation to contact another facility with the necessary capability.

C. Request for transfer of a patient shall be initiated by the referring physician contacting the LSU Transfer Center or the LERN Communication Center. The Transfer Center shall facilitate inter-hospital consultations and transfer requests. Transfer requests to the Emergency Care Center or main hospital switchboard should be routed to the Transfer Center.

D. Consulting the on-call schedule, the LSU STAT transfer coordinator shall obtain the details of the patient’s medical condition and link the calling physician with the appropriate service at LSUHSC.

E. Once the patient has been accepted by the LSUHSC physician, the Transfer Center shall obtain the necessary information (i.e., demographics, identification card, insurance information) from the transferring facility; the patient’s information will be sent to the Admitting Department. The Admitting Department/Administrative House Manager shall verify that the necessary resources for admission are available and notify the Transfer Center of such. The Transfer Center shall communicate this to the referring facility.

F. All departments who receive requests for transfer of patients are requested to maintain this policy and procedure statement in a place accessible to faculty, residents, and other personnel to ensure that physicians who are involved in transfers adhere to its content. Questions should be referred to Hospital Administration.

Administrator

11/21/12

Date

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