

**Standard Operating Procedures Manual**  
**City of Poquoson Fire and Rescue**



**City of Poquoson  
Fire and Rescue**

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**EMS Operations**

**SOP#:** EMS 12.0

**Title:** Patient Transport

**Effective Date:** 06/06/2008

**Revised Date:** 05/09/2014

  
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**Fire Chief's Signature**

  
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**City Manager's Signature**

  
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**Operational Medical Director**

**Patient Transport**

**I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance with patient transport decisions for EMS calls handled by Poquoson Fire/Rescue.

This SOP is not all-inclusive and cannot encompass all situations that may be encountered.

**II. APPLICABILITY**

All Career and Volunteer Staff

**III. POLICY**

It shall be the policy of Poquoson Fire/Rescue Department to transport EMS patients to any of the local service area Peninsula hospitals requested by the patient, family, or physician. These hospitals include:

- Sentara Careplex Hospital
- Riverside Regional Medical Center
- Mary Immaculate Hospital
- VA Medical Center (Hampton)

In the event that a patient, patient's family, or physician request that the patient be transported to a facility outside of the Peninsula hospitals listed above (i.e.: Norfolk General or Sentara Williamsburg) the Attendant In Charge of that EMS unit (or EMS Supervisor) will be responsible for contacting the Shift Battalion to request transport out of our service area. Should the Battalion approve it, then either Sentara Careplex or Riverside Regional should be contacted to consult with Online Medical Control. It will be Medical Control's final decision as to whether the patient may be transported outside of our service area. The Attendant In Charge should be sure to document the Medical Control physician's name on their PPCR.

In the event that a TDO (Temporary Detention Order) has been issued for a patient's transport, the EMS crew must abide by this legal order. The TDO **must** be invoked for the EMS crew to follow it. If the TDO is invoked to compel the patient to be transported, a law enforcement officer must accompany the patient now considered to be in protective custody. If the patient agrees to a voluntary transport, then the TDO does not apply and the patient may be transported to any of our local service area hospitals capable of providing the appropriate care.

**Special Consideration for VAD (Ventricular Assist Device) Patients** – In the event that a patient has an implanted VAD and the symptoms could indicate a problem with the VAD, the VAD Coordinator at Norfolk General Hospital should be contacted. The 24 hours emergency phone number is 757-388-2831. Staff should choose option 6 for the Heart Nurse or ask for the Heart MD for Transplants. This number has been programmed in the cell phone assigned to each Medic unit. Examples would include chest pains, difficulty breathing, syncope, stroke symptoms, altered LOC. This patient should be transported via **air ambulance** to Norfolk General Hospital for treatment unless otherwise instructed by the VAD Coordinator.

Should any questions arise regarding this policy, the Shift Battalion should contact the EMS Officer immediately to help ensure proper care and transport of the patient.

**Patient Transport**