
Emergency Medical Services Transport

504.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The Kirkland Fire Department provides BLS (Basic Life Support) transports of patients to area hospitals as a core service.

The purpose of this policy is to provide a uniform decision-making process when determining transport methods and destinations for BLS patients.

504.2 POLICY

The Kirkland Fire Department will provide BLS services in accordance with King County EMS (KCEMS) guidelines.

Kirkland Fire Department will normally transport BLS patients to area hospitals.

During times of extreme activity or other unusual circumstances, officers may temporarily deviate from the requirements of this policy in order to best serve the needs of the community as a whole.

504.3 DEFINITIONS

- (a) ALS-Advanced Life Support. A level of medical care provided by licensed Paramedics.
- (b) BLS- Basic Life Support. A level of medical practice provided by licensed Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT).
- (c) Custodial Control- When a person is placed in the custody of law enforcement officials. This includes, but is not limited to their custodial arrest, custodial protection or welfare.
- (d) HIPAA- The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act.
- (e) EPRC- Electronic Patient Care Report documenting patient care.

504.4 PROCEDURES

- (a) Patient care shall be provided in accordance with the current version of KCEMS Patient Care Guidelines.
- (b) The officer in charge, or Incident Commander (IC), has discretion to determine the appropriate mode of transportation (Department BLS, Private Ambulance, POV, other) and destination based on the medical needs of the patient and the operational needs of the Department
- (c) The Department will normally provide BLS transport to area medical facilities and hospitals.
- (d) KFD aid units will normally transport to the following facilities:
 - 1. Evergreen Medical Center
 - 2. Overlake Hospital
 - 3. Kaiser Permanente, Bellevue Campus

Kirkland Fire Department

Kirkland Fire Department Policy Manual

Emergency Medical Services Transport

- (e) The officer in charge may choose to provide transport to a more distant hospital when an emergent medical condition requires treatment at a non-local facility (usually Harborview Medical Center or Seattle Children's).
- (f) Units transporting to out of area hospitals shall advise the on-duty Battalion Chief.
- (g) KFD aid units should be the primary choice for transports to area hospitals. Private ambulance companies may be an appropriate mode of transportation when:
 - 1. Transport to hospitals doctor's offices, or urgent care facilities out side of our local area.
 - 2. Transport is requested to doctor appointments
 - 3. Nursing home and retirement home transfers
 - 4. Medical and rehabilitation facilities with staff onsite
 - 5. Repetitive/habitual users
 - 6. Periods of high call volumes
 - 7. During inclement weather/resource emergencies
- (h) KFD aid units will only transport patients having an IV when no other form of transportation is available, during a natural disaster, mass causality incident or when a paramedic accompanies the patient.
- (i) Patients meeting Rapid Transport Stroke Protocol should be cared for and transported in accordance with the current version of KCEMS Patient Care Guidelines, "Stroke Plan". No delay in transporting is the goal.
- (j) Requests by police agencies for transport of patients for the sole purpose of "involuntary treatment" should normally be transported by private ambulance. If both KPD and KFD are unable to obtain a private AMB, KFD units are authorized to transport patients to an appropriate facility.
- (k) For patients who have a formal "care plan" established by MIH or KFD EMS Officer, the EMS crew should follow the specific care plan as prescribed for the patient.
- (l) When KFD aid units transports a patient:
 - 1. The transporting crew shall have appropriate signature(s) on the electronic Patient Authorization Form.
 - 2. Transporting crews shall log the transport mileage utilizing EPCR and CAD data.
 - 3. Transporting crew shall obtain the patient number and record on the PCR from the destination facility whenever possible.
 - 4. Transporting crews shall enter a chart number/patient number into the EPCR.

504.5 RESPONSIBILITY

- A. All employees shall be familiar with this policy and follow its requirements.
- B. All Officers and Acting Officers shall monitor and ensure compliance with this policy.