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STATE HEALTH OFFICER

August 16, 2021

MEMORANDUM

TO: Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Providers

FROM: Jamie Gray, B.S., NRP, Director
Office of Emergency Medical Services

William Crawford, M.D., FACEP
State Emergency Medical Services Medical Director

SUBJECT: Transport destinations

The Alabama Department of Public Health Office of EMS is again providing guidance to EMS Provider Services, during the uptake in COVID-19 patients.

An EMS Provider Service licensed in Alabama to transport patients may, after consultation and approval from online medical direction, alter the destination choice of a patient from the patient's original destination hospital choice to the closest appropriate medical facility. Any regulation to the contrary is currently suspended for a period of 30 days, unless extended. Please continue to follow guidance from the Alabama Trauma Communications Center (ATCC) for acute health systems patients.

Please know that if your service decides to not transport patients who request help through the 9-1-1 system, or by any other means of requesting help due to an emergency, you will be in violation of the Code of Alabama and the administrative EMS Rules promulgated there under; and, the Office of EMS will take appropriate action against your provider service license.

Attached you will find a check sheet for the appropriate transport of an individual who exhibits the signs and symptoms of an infectious disease. Please circulate this information so that all EMSP working for your service will have access to it.

If you need assistance or medical advice about a patient you are treating, the ATCC is a resource available to you. We have EMS physicians on call and prepared to answer your questions. It is not mandatory that you notify ATCC, but it is merely a resource if you need assistance.

The Office of EMS will continue to update you as information becomes available. Please remain diligent and protect yourself as we continue to treat and protect the citizens of Alabama.

JG/WC
Attachment