

## Summary of Outside Patient Transfers

### Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act (EMTALA)

- Enacted by Congress in 1986 because of concerns that emergency departments were refusing to treat or inappropriately transferring patients based on ability to pay (“patient dumping”)
- EMTALA Obligations
  1. Hospitals must provide a medical screening exam to determine if an emergency medical condition exists.
  2. If an emergency medical condition exists, the patient must be treated and stabilized.
  3. If a hospital does not have the capability to treat the condition, an appropriate transfer to another hospital should be made.

### Patient Transport Communication

- Name, Age, Weight
- Medical Condition
- Pertinent Past Medical History & Medications
- Allergies
- Vital Signs (Including BP & O2 Sat)
- Weight
- Pertinent Physical Exam Findings
  - Mental Status
  - Airway Status
  - Perfusion Assessment
- Interventions Performed & Response to Therapy
- Condition Updates

### Transportation Options

- Basic Life Support (BLS) Transport
  - Capabilities
    - Administer Oxygen
    - Administer IV fluids
    - Immobilize
    - Administer Limited Selection of Medications (Albuterol, EpiPen, Oral Glucose)
  - Recommended for stable patients or immediate transport (“load and go”)
- Advanced Life Support (ALS) Transport
  - Capabilities
    - Intubate
    - Obtain IV Access
    - Administer Oral & IV Medications
  - Recommended if life-threatening conditions, altered consciousness, or respiratory distress.
- Critical Care Transport
  - Capabilities
    - Cardiac Monitoring & Vasoactive Medication Administration
    - Ventilatory Support
- Neonatal Transport
- Air (Helicopter & Fixed-Wing Airplane) Transport
  - Recommended if long distances, poor road conditions/weather, or if immediate intervention required (ie hemorrhage)