

# EARLY TRANSPORT DECISIONS

## BLS

ALWAYS USE BODY SUBSTANCE ISOLATION PRECAUTIONS

### INDICATION

- Emergent patient with life or limb threatening conditions including:
  - Severe respiratory distress or respiratory arrest
  - Airway compromise or obstruction
  - Significant neurological decline from baseline evaluation
  - Anticipated or current shock
  - Uncontrolled bleeding
  - Open chest or abdomen
  - Tension pneumothorax
  - Pericardial tamponade
  - Prolapsed cord, impending breech delivery, abnormal presenting part
  - Multi-system trauma
  - Severe burns - Second or third degree burns (contact with caustic material, electricity or fire) involving 20% or more of body surface area (BSA) for adults or 10% BSA for pediatric patients or if associated with respiratory involvement
  - Isolated head injury with unconsciousness/ posturing

### PROCEDURE

- BLS RMC
- Verify estimated time of arrival of ALS unit, or consider helicopter transport
- Update responding ALS unit on need for early transport to the closest, appropriate facility.
- If ALS arrival time is longer than time to transport to the closest facility, begin transport and consider rendezvous with ALS unit en route if appropriate.
- If transport time to the closest facility is > 10 minutes and ALS transport or rendezvous is not immediately available, begin transport and consider helicopter rendezvous if helicopter transport would result in reduced transport time to an emergency facility.

### SPECIAL CONSIDERATION

- If patient is in extremis and transport unit is not available, transport in available vehicle.

### DOCUMENTATION- ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS

- Projected ETA of ALS unit if BLS transport undertaken
- Detailed description of life or limb threatening conditions
- Helicopter request and ETA

### RELATED POLICIES/ PROCEDURES

- Destination Guidelines GPC 4