



Carroll County Department of Fire & EMS

EMS Policies and Procedures

Standard Operating Procedure:	Effective Date June 8, 2023
Subject: Hospital Alert Status	Section: Emergency Medical Services
Authorized: Michael Stoner, Assistant Chief	Revision Date: N/A

I. PURPOSE

The hospital alert system was developed to prevent extended wait times for transfer of patient care therefore reducing the delay in definitive patient care.

II. DEFINITIONS

Yellow Alert- The emergency department temporarily requests that it receive absolutely no patients in need of urgent medical care. Yellow alert is initiated because the Emergency dept is experiencing a temporary overwhelming overload such that priority II and III patients may not be managed safely. Prior to diverting pediatric patients, medical consultation is advised for pediatric patient transports when emergency departments are on yellow alert.

Red Alert- The hospital has no ECG monitored beds available. These ECG monitored beds will include all in-patient critical care areas and telemetry beds.

Blue Alert- When an EMS jurisdictional system is temporarily taxed to its limits in providing prehospital care and ambulance transportation due to extraordinary situations such as snow, icing, flooding or other circumstances that contribute to high demand for ambulance service, the jurisdiction may declare blue alert status which suspends yellow alert.

Mini- Disaster- The emergency department reports that their facility has, in effect, suspended operation and can receive absolutely no patients due to a situation such as a power-outage, fire, gas leak, bomb scare, etc.

Re-Route-An ALS/BLS unit is being held in the emergency department of a hospital due to lack of an available bed. (This does not replace Yellow Alert.)

Trauma Bypass-The hospital's ability to function as a trauma center has been exceeded. (This decision is at the discretion of the facility.)

Capacity-The hospital's capacity has been exceeded.

III. PROCEDURES

Alert Status Transport Guidance

Red Alert:

Priority 1	Yes
Priority 2 on EKG Monitor	No
Priority 2 not on EKG Monitor	Yes
Priority 3	Yes

Yellow Alert:

Priority 1	Yes
Priority 2 EKG Monitored	No
Priority 2 Not EKG Monitored	No
Priority 3	No (Unless patient can go to triage)

Clear: Normal, accepting all patients

Blue Alert: Patient's will be transported to the closest facility. Will be determined by the Shift Commander and/or EMS 100.

Re-Route: This will occur when units are being held in the ER due to lack of beds available. The unit(s) that are being held will contact communications who will notify the on-duty Shift Commander. The Shift Commander will determine if Re-Route is appropriate. If necessary, the Shift Commander will respond to Carroll Hospital to speak with the charge nurse. If no resolution can be agreed upon, the hospital will be placed on re-route.

1. DFEMS units will make every effort to abide by the guidelines set forth in the hospital alert system based on the receiving facility's status.
2. The ED will always be open to Priority 1 patients; therefore, it is necessary to determine an alert status when only one (1) monitored bed is left available in the ED or CCU.

3. The alert status will not change the policies regarding transport by land or air of patients to specialty referral centers per Maryland Medical Protocols.
4. Whenever possible, EMS crews will notify the ED when it may be appropriate for an ambulance patient to be seen in triage, not requiring an ED bed upon their arrival.
5. Alerts **will not** be influenced by hospital staffing levels.
6. Crew members may utilize the MIEMSS website in order check the hospital status as well throughout the shift.

IV. RECISION

This Standard Operating Procedure rescinds all directives regarding Hospital Alert Status or similar content previously issued for personnel of the Carroll County Department of Fire & EMS.