

## **EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTIVE**

**Title:** Patient Transport Destinations

**Directive:** 001

**Purpose:** To facilitate transport of patients to closest appropriate facility

**Commencing Date:** January 29, 2019

**Sunset Date:** December 31, 2019

**To:** All Response Personnel

**Authorization:** Darrel Welborn, EMS Chief

Okaloosa County Emergency Medical Services has reviewed the Federal guidelines regarding stable patients requesting transport to facilities that are not closest to the geographical location of the patient. We have found that within reason and to ensure our patients are transported to the closest appropriate facility (including physician and facility preference) that it is permissible to transport the patient to a facility beyond the nearest facility if appropriate and when personally requested. Factors to be considered, among others, include the patient's condition, history with the requested facility, etc.

Therefore, requests to transport patients to a preferred facility that is farther than the nearest facility will be honored in cases that do not involve a trauma alert, stroke alert, cardiac alert or clinically unstable patient. This directive includes physician and facility preference but does not pertain to critical care cases. Okaloosa County EMS continues to maintain the stance that unstable cardiac, stroke, or trauma patients must be taken to the closest appropriate facility or center for treatment and/or stabilization.

For operational planning and accountability, employees must notify the appropriate Branch Commander of such transports and the patient's request in such situations to transport them to a facility outside the catchment area (Pensacola, Panama City etc.). Sacred Heart Hospital Emerald Coast is in the catchment area and the ten (10) minute availability policy still applies. Once available, crews shall respond to calls as normal.