



# HVREMSCO and HVREMAC Policy and Procedures Manual

Policy Name: <b>Ambulance Destination</b>	
Policy Number: CP-2	
Approved by: REMAC	Effective Date: 6/5/2017
Revision Date(s):	Page 1 of 1

**Purpose:** Provide clarification on destination decisions, as well as when facilities are on diversion.

## Destination Decisions:

- Patients shall be transported to the nearest appropriate hospital, as defined by state/regional protocols, medical condition, and patient choice. ALS providers must make every effort to educate and inform patients of the need to go to the most appropriate facility.
- Medical Control must approve any anticipated deviation from this standard.
- When transportation is not to the nearest appropriate hospital, the ALS Provider shall contact Medical Control at the intended receiving hospital to see if they are willing to accept that patient. All communications will be documented in accordance with the Communications Policy. If the intended receiving hospital is not a Medical Control hospital, the provider must contact medical control at any Medical Control Hospital.
- When patients are transported to a hospital not providing the Medical Control for the transport, the Medical Control Practitioner will notify the clinical practitioner (Physician, Physician's Assistant, or Nurse Practitioner as appropriate) designated as in charge of the Receiving Hospital emergency department of the transport and the patient treatment/status.

## Ambulance Diversion:

- Ambulance diversion is a hospital based decision and is not binding upon the ALS service. Diversion may not be appropriate if the hospital "on diversion" is the nearest appropriate hospital and the patient's well-being may be compromised by a longer transport time.
- For further reference, consult NYS DOH BEMS Policy Statement 06-01, "Emergency Patient Destinations and Hospital Diversion," located at:  
<https://www.health.ny.gov/professionals/ems/pdf/06-01.pdf>.