

<i>Guideline:</i>	Ambulance Act provisions for Patient Transport
<i>Reference #:</i>	G_C091609
<i>Approved by:</i>	Council
<i>Date approved:</i>	September 16, 2009
<i>Attachments:</i>	none

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## **Ambulance Act provisions for Patient Transport**

### **Guideline for Midwives**

Midwives should familiarize themselves with the BLS standards and the “Midwives at the Scene” standard.

Midwifery practices should establish a relationship with ambulance service operators within their catchment area in order to educate all personnel about home birth transports. Ambulance personnel would benefit from an understanding of the training of midwives, the equipment carried to home births, the monitoring and risk assessment that takes place during labour at home and midwives’ hospital privileges in the catchment area of the ambulance service.

It is advised that a procedure be established to be followed for each request for ambulance transport from a home birth. The information to be provided should include an explanation of the reason for transport, the urgency of the situation and the midwife’s recommendation for facility choice; based on the reason for transport, urgency and available services and personnel at the hospital(s) in the community.

### **Background**

Regulation 257/00 made under the *Ambulance Act* provides that ambulance personnel (emergency medical attendant and paramedics) must ensure that patient care is provided in accordance with the patient care standards and procedures set out in the Basic Life Support Patient Care Standards (“BLS Standards”). These standards are incorporated by reference in the Regulation and therefore have the force of law.

Section 1 of the BLS Standards, which sets out the General Standard of Care, provides that paramedics will make a decision regarding receiving facility and initiate transport of the patient, as confirmed or directed by appropriate parties, including midwives. The direction of the midwife must be confirmed by ambulance dispatch.

Section 5 of the BLS Standards, Obstetrical Conditions, contains a “Midwives at the Scene Standard”. The opening statement requires that paramedics and midwives will work cooperatively in making decisions and providing quality patient care to the mother and neonate during an out-of-hospital birth. Step 1 in the Procedure section of the standard requires paramedics to obtain all pertinent information related to the call

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and specific instructions from dispatch. Step 5 provides that, should the midwife's care or management of the patient and/or infant(s) be in contradiction of approved BLS Standards, the paramedic will, with the patient's consent, assume full control of the situation. Where available, consultation will be made with the Base Hospital Physician.

Therefore, according to these legislated standards, midwives are able to direct an ambulance to the appropriate facility during a transport from a home birth, with ambulance dispatch confirmation.