

Standard:	Ambulance Transport
Reference #:	STCMO_C09252013
Approved by:	Council
Date Approved:	September 25, 2013
Rescinded:	June 1, 2018
Effective date:	January 1, 2014
Attachments:	none



AMBULANCE TRANSPORT

Purpose

This standard sets out the requirements for midwives regarding ambulance transport for midwifery clients from an out-of-hospital setting to a public hospital.

Midwifery standards of practice refer to the minimum standard of professional behaviour and clinical practice expected of midwives in Ontario.

Definition

Out-of-hospital location is any location outside a public hospital including home, clinic, or birth centre.

Background

Paramedics and emergency health attendants are required to follow patient care standards in accordance with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care's *Basic Life Support (BLS) Patient Care Standards (January 2007, Version 2.0)*.

The *BLS Patient Care Standards* require paramedics to make a decision regarding the receiving facility and to initiate transport of the patient as confirmed or directed by the attending midwife, **with dispatch confirmation**. Midwives must confirm facility choice with dispatcher before providing direction to the responding paramedic. In the absence of direction, the paramedic will transport the patient to the closest or most appropriate hospital emergency unit.

The *Midwives at the Scene Standard* requires paramedics and midwives to work cooperatively in making decisions and providing quality patient care to the mother and neonate during an out-of-hospital birth. If the midwife is unknown to the paramedic, they are required to seek confirmation that the midwife is a registered midwife with the College of Midwives of Ontario. Should the midwife's care or management of the patient and/or infant(s) be in contradiction of approved *BLS Patient Care 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. Upon completion of a call to an out-of-hospital birth scene with a midwife present, the paramedic will

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note on the Ambulance Call Report the midwife's presence and involvement, including the name of the midwife.

Standard

Midwives must familiarize themselves with the *Midwives at the Scene Standard* located in the Obstetrical section of the *Basic Life Support Patient Care Standards*.

Midwifery practices must establish protocols regarding ambulance transport from out-of-hospital births. Protocols must address what information is conveyed to both dispatch and paramedic in attendance as to the reason for transport, the urgency of the situation, the midwife's recommendation for facility choice as well as steps to be followed in cases where the paramedics or base hospital disagree with the midwife's recommendation.

Planned out-of-hospital births must be pre-registered with local Emergency Medical Services if:

- The midwifery practice area includes rural or remote areas, or
- The client lives in a location with difficult or obscure access.

Recommendation

Midwifery practices should make their best efforts to establish relationships with paramedic teams in their catchment area in order to facilitate good working relations and improve emergency medical attendants' knowledge and understanding of planned out-of-hospital births.