



**North Country
Regional Emergency Medical Advisory
Committee
Policy Statement**

Serving: St. Lawrence, Jefferson, and Lewis Counties

No. 17-05
Date: 4/3/17
Updated: 01/27/2020
Re: Air Medical
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Supersedes:

PURPOSE

Guidance for air medical use

BACKGROUND

Policy statement replaces previous special protocol with the adoption of the current NYS Collaborative protocols

Air Medical Transport should be considered for the following:

- Anytime a patient outcome could be improved by shortened transport time or advanced level of care such as:
 - Ground transport greater than 30 minutes;
 - Prolonged extrication;
 - A remote or wilderness area, difficult terrain, or any other time when ground ambulance access is prevented or delayed;
 - Multiple critical / unstable patients / multiple casualty incident;
 - To bring special medical personnel and equipment to the scene, such as a physician or surgeon;
 - ALS level care is otherwise unavailable
 - Patients in need of transport to a specialty center, who are within the time frame for improved outcome (Stroke, STEMI, Trauma, Burns, Etc.)
- Request for Air Medical Service should be made immediately when one of the above criteria is met.
- Patient transport should not be delayed waiting for a helicopter. Begin transport to the hospital and rendezvous with the helicopter, if possible, at a predetermined safe landing site.
- Request for air medical can be made by any responding emergency personnel, cancellations should be made by the highest trained EMS provider on scene.
- All requests should be routed through the appropriate county 911 center, who will contact the clearing house for availability of the closest aircraft.
- **Key Point/Considerations**
Incident command system should be utilized to request aircraft when responding to a Motor Vehicle Crash or Multiple Casualty scene.