

P320 LFD PROCEDURE PROTOCOL: PSYCHIATRIC TRANSFERS

EMT	AEMT	EMT-I	Paramedic
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Purpose

The purpose of this protocol is to provide direction for the conduct of inter-facility transfers of patients with psychiatric disorders.

Indications

This protocol will provide guidelines for the conduct of such transfers when one or more of the following conditions exist:

1. The patient's condition and or history is such that he or she poses a real or perceived physical threat to either himself or herself or the ambulance attendant while en route.
2. The patient's condition and/or history is such that he or she poses a real or perceived threat to make unsubstantiated claims of impropriety on the part of the ambulance attendant while en route.

Direction

1. For patients who may pose a physical threat to themselves or attendants, additional personnel will be assigned to the transfer as appropriate:
 - (a) personnel trained and equipped to restrain the patient using physical and/or chemical means
 - (b) law enforcement personnel
 - (c) additional IMH or LFD personnel.
2. For patients who may pose a threat of allegations of impropriety, additional personnel will be assigned to the transfer as appropriate:
 - (a) IMH personnel previously involved in the patient's treatment for their psychological disorder,
 - (b) IMH personnel of the same gender as the patient
 - (c) additional IMH or LFD personnel.

Special Considerations

Attendants required to conduct such transfers may request such additional help. The requests will be granted or denied after consultation between the Nursing Supervisor and Shift Commander on duty at the time of the transfer.

Requests for additional attendants for such transfers will be subject to review of the LFD EMS Commander, the LFD Medical Director, and IMH ED Manager.