

# Pediatric EMS Triage and Destination Plan



## Pediatric Patient

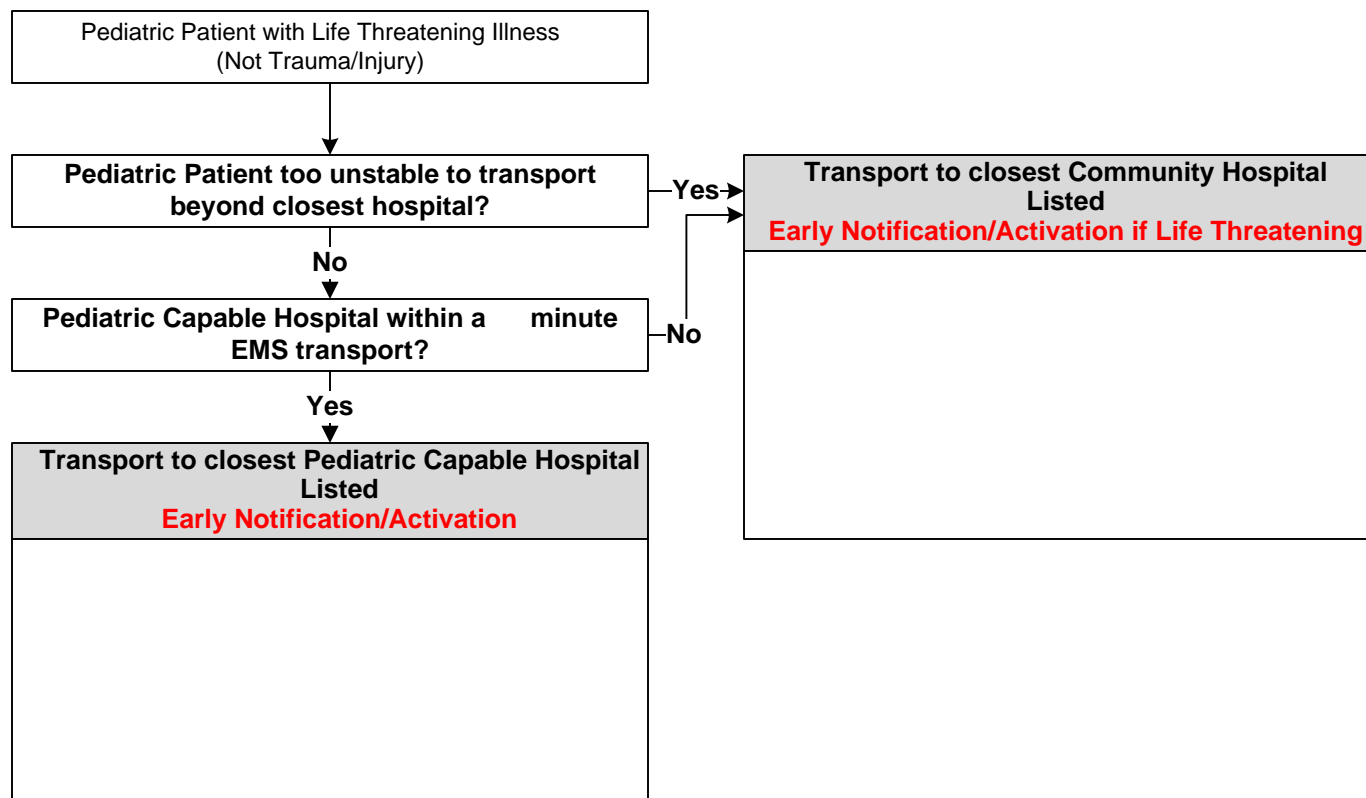
- \* Any patient less than 16 years of age with a life-threatening illness (Not Trauma)

### Life Threatening Illness

- \* Decreased Mental Status (GCS<13)
- \* Non-Responsive Respiratory Distress
- \* Intubation
- \* Post Cardiac Arrest
- \* Non-Responsive Hypotension (shock)
- \* Severe Hypothermia or Hyperthermia
- \* Status Epilepticus
- \* Potential Dangerous Envenomation
- \* Life Threatening Ingestion/Chemical Exposure
- \* Children with Special Healthcare Needs (and destination choice based on parental request)

## The Purpose of this plan is to:

- \* Rapidly identify pediatric patients who call 911 or present to EMS with a life-threatening illness
- \* Minimize the time from EMS contact to definitive care
- \* Quickly diagnose patients with pediatric life-threatening illness for EMS treatment and stabilization
- \* Rapidly identify the best hospital destination based on symptom onset time, vital signs, response to treatment, and predicted transport time
- \* Early activation/notification to the hospital prior to patient arrival
- \* Minimize scene time with a "load and go" approach
- \* Provide quality EMS service and patient care to the EMS community
- \* Continuously evaluate the EMS System based on North Carolina's EMS performance measures



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## Pearls and Definitions

- \* **All Pediatric Patients with a life-threatening illness must be triaged and transported using this plan. This plan is in effect 24/7/365.**
- \* **The Trauma and Burn Triage and Destination Plan should be used for all injured patients regardless of age.**
- \* **All Patient Care is based on the EMS Pediatric Protocol**
- \* **Pediatric Capable Hospital** = a hospital with an emergency and pediatric intensive care capability including but not limited to:
  - \* Emergency Department staffed 24 hours per day with board certified Emergency Physicians
  - \* An inpatient Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (with a physician pediatric intensivist available in-house or on call 24/7/365)
  - \* Accepts all EMS patients regardless of bed availability
  - \* Provides outcome and performance measure feedback to EMS including case review
- \* **Community Hospital** = a local hospital within the EMS System's service area which provides emergency care but does not meet the criteria of a Pediatric Capable Hospital
- \* **Pediatric Specialty Care Transport Program** = an air or ground based specialty care transport program that has specific pediatric training and equipment addressing the needs of a pediatric patient that can assume care of a pediatric patient from EMS or a Community Hospital and transport the patient to a Pediatric Capable Hospital.