



# Central Ohio Trauma System

## Emergency Patient Transport Plan (EPTP)

**EPTP is not a “city-wide diversion.” In-fact, it is the opposite of diversion.**

- EPTP is an EMS patient distribution process. It is activated when at least 3 Franklin County adult hospitals concurrently have a divert or closed status in the RTAS system.
- EPTP applies to stable EMS patients transported by public and private EMS agencies.
- EMS should follow their protocols for critical or unstable patients. These patients typically go to the closest, most appropriate hospital.
- No hospital/ED may divert during an EPTP activation.
- **Excluded Patients:** Unless a hospital/ED is closed to EMS or otherwise unable to accept certain EMS patients, patients with these conditions or special circumstances should be transported to the most appropriate hospital regardless of the EPTP activation:
  - **Critical or unstable patients**, as determined by EMS, go to closest, most appropriate hospital/ED.
  - Patients with **chronic medical conditions or specialty needs** (e.g., transplant, dialysis, hyperbaric, burn, active labor, etc.) should go to their established medical home.
  - Patients **recently discharged** from a hospital/ED, should be transported to that same hospital/ED.
  - **Interfacility transfer** patients should be transported to the accepting hospital/ED.
  - Patients **who do not agree** to be transported to a FAO assigned hospital/ED and request transport to another hospital/ED may be transported to their requested hospital/ED.

## EPTP Actions

- Columbus Fire and COTS will notify hospitals/EDs and EMS about EPTP activations/deactivations.
- All public and private EMS units transporting to a Franklin County adult hospital/ED should contact the Columbus Fire FAO via MARCS 9-transport or by phone, **(614) 221-2345**, to request an ED assignment or for excluded patients, to advise of their intended destination.
- Columbus Fire FAO will assign transporting EMS units to an available hospital/ED per EPTP protocols and targeted ratios. High EMS demand may cause a hospital/ED to receive more patients than their targeted ratios.
- Hospitals/EDs must continue updating their RTAS status at 0600, 1200, 1800, and 0000 each day.
- For real-time concerns, including transport surges, a hospital/ED may contact the Columbus Fire FAO by phone, **(614) 221-2345**, to verify they have received credit for all recent transports.
- Hospitals/EDs and EMS should follow internal processes for EPTP and transport concerns.