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STATE HEALTH OFFICER

April 3, 2023

MEMORANDUM

TO: Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Providers

FROM: Jamie Gray, B.S., NRP, Director
Office of Emergency Medical Services

William Crawford, M.D., FACEP
State Emergency Medical Services Medical Director

SUBJECT: Transport destinations

An EMS Provider Service licensed in Alabama to transport patients may, after consultation and approval from online medical direction, alter the destination choice of a patient from the patient's original destination hospital choice to the closest appropriate medical facility. Any regulation to the contrary is currently suspended until further notice unless specified. Please continue to follow guidance from the Alabama Trauma Communications Center (ATCC) for all acute health systems patients.

Please know that if your service decides to not transport patients who request help through the 9-1-1 system, or by any other means of requesting help due to an emergency, you will be in violation of the Code of Alabama 1975 and the administrative EMS Rules promulgated there under; and, the Office of EMS will take appropriate action against your provider service license.

Please circulate this information so that all EMSP working for your service will have access to it.

If you need assistance or medical advice about a patient you are treating, the ATCC is a resource available to you. We have EMS physicians on call and prepared to answer your questions. It is not mandatory that you notify ATCC, but it is merely a resource if you need assistance.

The Office of EMS is continuing to update the operational guidelines as appropriate so please remain diligent and protect yourself as we continue to treat and protect the citizens of Alabama.

JG/WC