**EAST ALABAMA EMS, INC.**

**REGION 2**

**HELICOPTER ACTIVATION/UTILIZATION PLAN**

**PURPOSE**

The purpose is to set forth a plan for the Emergency Medical Services Personnel (EMSP) in Region 2 regarding the activation and utilization of Helicopter EMS (HEMS) within Region 2. The EMSP will utilize the current edition of the Alabama Department of Public Health, Office of EMS and Trauma Emergency Medical Services Patient Care Protocols at all times and nothing in this plan will deviate or cause the EMSP to deviate from said Patient Care Protocols. The regional Medical Direction and Accountability Plan and Trauma Plans shall also be followed. Online Medical Direction should be consulted anytime there is a question related to use of HEMS.

**PROCESS**

EMSP may contact HEMS prior to arrival at a scene for early activation based on information obtained from caller(s). It should also be noted that other persons (i.e. law enforcement, first responders, family members or bystanders) may have contacted HEMS prior to arrival of EMS.

EMSP shall contact HEMS for air transport if in the professional judgment of the highest level licensed EMS Personnel on the scene air transport will significantly reduce the transport time to an appropriate medical facility or the specialized services offered by the HEMS would benefit the patient prior to arrival at the hospital. Online Medical Direction should be consulted anytime there is a question related to use of HEMS.

An EMS unit should not unduly delay transport or wait on a scene for HEMS. If the EMS unit is ready to transport the patient and HEMS is not yet at the scene, a landing zone should be determined that will allow the HEMS to intercept the EMS unit while traveling in the direction of the destination hospital.

All ground services should work with the HEMS to pre-determine landing zones within their service area. The pre-determined landing zones should be strategically placed throughout the service area for ease of use and safety for the HEMS. The ground units, dispatch service and HEMS should know the location of the pre-determined landing zones and have the physical address and latitude/longitude coordinates readily available.

Patients entered into the Trauma System who require transport to a Level 1 trauma center should be transported either by ground EMS unit or HEMS if they are within 60 minutes of the Level 1 trauma center. If the transport time is greater than 60 minutes to the Level 1 trauma center, then HEMS should be contacted to attempt to transport the patient by HEMS to a Level 1 trauma center. If HEMS is unable to transport the patient, the ground EMS unit should transport the patient to the appropriate facility based on the regional trauma plan.

The EMS Service and the HEMS in partnership, should review all HEMS runs QA/QI issues. Any unresolved issues should be brought to the MDAC for review. The MDAC reserves the right to QA/QI any and/or all HEMS runs within Region 2.

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