



Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service

Division of Operations

Emergency Medical and Integrated Healthcare Services

Office of Medical Oversight Clinical Practice Guideline

Title:	Use of lights and siren during patient transport	Number:	2025-07
Date:	August 6th, 2025		
Issued by:	Roger M. Stone MD, MS – MCFRS Medical Director		
Purpose:	To ensure that transport mode corresponds to the medical necessity of the use of lights and sirens		
Target Patient Population:	All patients transported by MCFRS		
Guideline:	<p>The decision to transport a patient using lights and sirens must be based on objective clinical factors. The use of lights and sirens increases the risk of collisions and injuries to the patient, the public, and MCFRS personnel. Lights and sirens transport is not medically supported for a majority of patients and thus must be reserved for patients who require a time-sensitive hospital-based intervention. All other patients shall be transported without the use of lights and sirens.</p> <p>Patients requiring time-sensitive hospital-based interventions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stroke patients• STEMI patients• Category Alpha or Bravo trauma patients with emergent surgical needs• Complicated OB patients, such as a breech presentation or massive hemorrhage• Patients who are unable to be adequately oxygenated or ventilated• Any critically unstable patient whose condition cannot be effectively treated or stabilized in the pre-hospital environment <p>The clinical needs of a patient may evolve during transport. If a patient develops signs or symptoms indicating the need for a time-sensitive hospital-based intervention, EMS clinicians are empowered to adjust the transport mode accordingly based on the patient's changing clinical needs.</p> <p>In accordance with Maryland Medical Protocol, clinicians must first treat critically unstable patients by ceasing all efforts toward patient movement. The use of lights and siren transport should be initiated or continued only after resuscitative efforts are underway.</p> <p>The reasoning for lights and sirens use must be documented in the patient care report.</p> <p>Questions may be directed to the EMIHS Quality Management Battalion Chief.</p>		