Central DuPage Emergency Medical Services System

Pre-hospital By-Pass of Central DuPage Emergency Department

INTRODUCTION AND APPROVAL: 1/98	EMS MEDICAL DIRECTOR: _____
REVIEW & APPROVAL: _____	EMSS COORDINATOR: _____
REVISION & APPROVAL: 12/00, 2/09	

PURPOSE:

To establish criteria for initiating the bypass of Central DuPage Hospital and the diversion of patients to other hospitals due to a system-wide crisis or internal disaster.

POLICY:

A. The diversion of pre-hospital patients to Emergency Departments other than Central DuPage may be initiated if any of the following situations occurs:

   1. All monitored beds in the Emergency Department, ICU/CCU, step-down units and PACU are filled with patients who cannot be transferred to an unmonitored bed.
   2. An internal hospital disaster or external disaster occurs overwhelming the resources of Central DuPage Hospital.

B. The decision to initiate by-passing of Central DuPage Emergency Department will be made by the Emergency Department physician, a hospital administrator, and President of the Medical Staff.

C. The By-Pass Log will be initiated by the Charge Nurse or designee including reason for by-pass, notification and times, updates and termination. Status of by-pass will be reviewed at a minimum every four hours and the decision to continue or terminate will be made.

D. Exceptions for by-pass or patient diversion:

   1. If a pre-hospital provider is unable to maintain or establish an airway for a patient, transport to the closest hospital is necessary despite by-pass status.
   2. Transport time to the next closest hospital is greater than 15 minutes.
   3. Two hospitals within Region 8 are on By-Pass. If three hospitals within the Region have announced by-pass, all by-pass status is terminated.

E. IDPH must be notified within 24 hours of By-Pass initiation by phone or FAX.