

Western Regional Emergency Medical Advisory Committee

Title: Diversion Policy	Effective Date: May 2011 Page: 1 of 1
Policy #2011-1 SUPERCEDES POLICY 1999-3	Revised:

Policy:	<p>EMS agencies are not obligated to honor a hospital's request to divert to a different Emergency Department. Hospitals may refuse ambulance traffic to its Emergency Department ONLY when the facility must declare the Emergency Department CLOSED per New York State Department of Health regulations. A hospital that has declared its Emergency Department is CLOSED does not see any patients from the general public or from EMS. In the event the Emergency Department is CLOSED, the patient should be transported to the closest appropriate receiving facility based on the patient's condition.</p> <p>Reasons for CLOSED status are limited to:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Any natural or manmade disaster and/or event that leads to the activation of the facility's internal disaster plan and mandates immediate notification of the NYS Department of Health.</p> <p>Heavy Emergency Department volume and/or lack of in-hospital beds alone are not considered reasons to declare the Emergency Department CLOSED.</p> <p>The reporting of hospital Emergency Department status is based upon local system needs and is not required by the WREMAC</p>
Procedure:	<p>If a facility wishes to declare the Emergency Department CLOSED, the following steps will be implemented:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Declaration of Internal Disaster and implementation of hospital's disaster plan 2. Immediate contact of NYS DOH by CEO or designee <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. During normal business hours contact the NYSDOH Hospital Unit at 716-847-4357 b. Outside normal business hours, contact the NYSDOH duty officer at 866-881-2809 3. Immediate contact of local and regional EMS dispatch centers <p>As soon as feasible, the facility should advise the DOH of the expected timeline to re-open the Emergency Department. This information will then be shared with the local and regional EMS systems.</p>
Reference:	Western Regional Emergency Medical Advisory Committee Minutes, May, 2011 – Diversion Subcommittee Report