

Western Regional Emergency Medical Advisory Committee

Title: Helicopter Utilization Policy	Effective Date: April 1993 Page: 1 of 1
Policy #1993-2	Revised: June 2009

Policy:	It is the policy of the REMAC that on scene use of helicopters by EMS agencies should follow these guidelines.
Procedure:	<p>1. Consider EMS Helicopter Transport:</p> <p>a. for patients who meet Trauma Triage guidelines, and when helicopter transport will significantly reduce the arrival time at a specialty center, especially for patients with a life or limb threatening condition.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">or</p> <p>b. if specialized services offered by the aeromedical crew would benefit the patient prior to arrival at the hospital, for example if ALS services are needed but not available by ground.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">or</p> <p>c. critically ill medical patients requiring care at a specialized center to include, but not limited to: acute stroke or ST-Elevation myocardial infarction.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">or</p> <p>d. in special circumstances including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mass Casualty Incidents - Equipment and/or personnel considerations - Safer/more effective transport - Facilitate rescue/extrication <p style="text-align: center;">and</p> <p>e. <i>only if the pt has viable signs of life (a measurable blood pressure or pulse)</i></p> <p>2. Helicopter Services should be:</p> <p>a. alerted to a “stand by” status by any Dispatcher, EMS, Fire or Police authority as soon as a potential need is identified.</p> <p>b. requested by on-scene prehospital care provider with the highest level of training, or in the absence of EMS personnel, the decision will be made by the scene incident commander.</p> <p>3. Patient transport should not be delayed waiting for a helicopter unless directed by MC.</p> <p>4. When multiple patients require transport from a scene, ground EMS shall triage those patients to insure the sickest patient or the patient that could benefit the most from the aeromedical service is assigned to the aeromedical service.</p>
Reference:	NY State Bureau of EMS Policy Statement 05-05