

Effective: 03/25/2020

Expiration:

Replaces Medical Directive #:

Subject: COVID-19 Pandemic – Non-transport and Referral

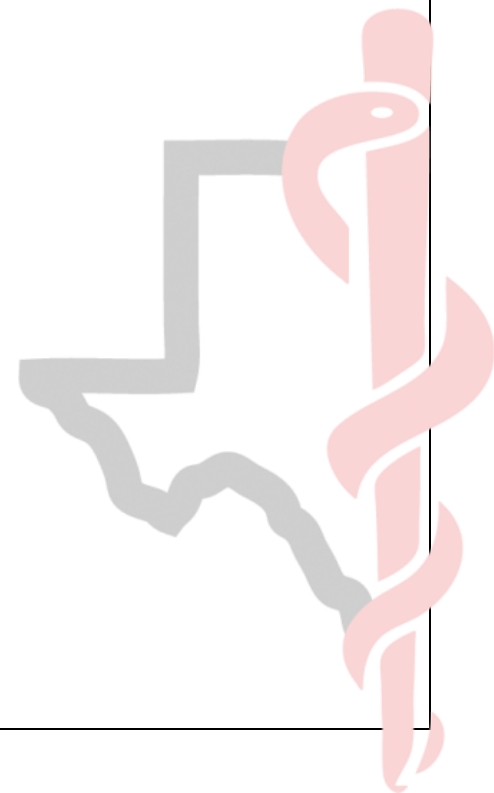
Purpose: The purpose of this directive is to provide guidance for evaluation, non-transport, and referral of low acuity patients with signs and symptoms consistent with COVID-19 during times of pandemic declaration within the jurisdiction of the Metropolitan Area EMS Authority (MAEMSA). This directive may be utilized by all Basic, Assist, and Advanced credentialed providers.

Indications:

1. Age 5-64 years
2. Patients with signs and symptoms consistent with COVID-19:
 - a. Fever
 - b. Cough
 - c. Shortness of breath
 - d. Sore throat
 - e. Nasal congestion
 - f. Body aches
 - g. Headache
 - h. Chills
 - i. Fatigue
 - j. Nausea / vomiting
 - k. Diarrhea

If any of the following, begin standard stabilization, treatment, and transport:

1. Abnormal vital signs
 - a. Systolic blood pressure < 90 mmHg (or age-specific)
 - b. Heart rate \geq 110 or \leq 50 beats per minute
 - c. Respiratory rate > 20 or < 8 breathes per minute
 - d. Pulse oximetry < 94% on room air
2. High-acuity symptoms:
 - a. Syncope
 - b. Ischemic chest pain
 - c. Severe shortness of breath
3. High-acuity physical exam findings:
 - a. Neck pain or rigidity
 - b. Signs of hypo-perfusion or dehydration
 - c. Abnormal breath sounds or respiratory distress
4. High-risk medical history
 - a. Immunocompromised, e.g., chemotherapy, HIV
 - b. Pregnant women or within 2-weeks postpartum
 - c. Unsafe to leave in place or inability to care for themselves
5. EMS provider suspicion for severe illness



Procedure:

1. For patients who meet indications with no criteria for transport, complete a full history and physical.
2. Inform the patient that they do not meet indications for transportation by ambulance to the emergency department.
3. Provide the patient with the "COVID-19 Related Illness" home care instructions, and instruct the patient to follow the home care and home isolation guidance described.
4. Instruct the patient to contact their healthcare provider for further medical care, or call 911 if their condition becomes severe.
5. Inform the patient that they can be screened and evaluated for COVID-19, including testing as indicated, using the Health System websites and phone numbers in the handout.
6. Complete a patient care report and select "COVID-19 Non-transport and Referral" in the Incident / Patient Disposition dropdown.
7. If the patient continues to request transport to the ED, contact OLPG.
8. If need for further guidance or questions, contact OLPG.

OMD will complete 100% review of all patients in which this directive was used.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me directly.



Veer D. Vithalani MD, FACEP, FAEMS
Interim Medical Director

