



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

*Office of Emergency Medical Services*



**To:** Connecticut Emergency Medical Organizations, CMED's & Regional Communication Center Directors

**From:** Department of Public Health  
Office of Emergency Medical Services

**Re:** Hurricane Sandy Advisory on Transport

**Date:** October 27, 2012

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Power outages have the potential to affect large areas of Connecticut resulting in a statewide emergency condition. This situation may result in voluminous requests for emergency services to respond to the needs of individuals without electricity, specifically to transport non-ambulatory and frail persons to areas of refuge and locations where there is electricity to power oxygen concentrator devices.

Any Connecticut Licensed or Certified EMS organization that is requested to transport a person(s) due to their loss of utilities should consider transportation of the individual(s) to a local emergency shelter utilizing whatever transportation resource that is most appropriate and safe, inclusive of ambulance or invalid coach. If after the responding provider's assessment, no acute medical concerns are identified, providers should consider shelter capabilities and the presence or absence of caregivers or resources in determining an appropriate destination. Whenever possible, any medical equipment, medications, bedding and personal care articles required by the patient should be sent to the shelter with them.

If there is any doubt or question regarding the appropriate destination for an individual, please contact online medical direction for patient-specific direction and/or instructions.

Coordination with local dispatch/CMED will be critical to ensure available shelter space and resources. Nothing in this notice should be construed to modify existing statute or regulation regarding ambulance billing. Licensed ambulance services may charge/bill for conveyance according to their rate schedule assigned by the Connecticut Department of Public Health. Certified ambulance services may convey patients to destinations other than the emergency department of an acute care hospital but may only charge/bill for emergency transportation to a licensed acute care facility according to their assigned rate schedule

It is imperative that individuals receive timely and appropriate medical care and/or service. We appreciate the unprecedented collaboration with all of our State public and private service agencies. Please feel free to contact the CT Office of Emergency Medical Services with any questions or for clarification.



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