

A. Introduction

A Free-Standing Emergency Department is a facility affiliated with a full-service hospital, licensed by the Florida Department of Health and approved by the Agency for Healthcare Administration (AHCA). Free Standing ED's are listed on MDFR's hospital capability chart and may be considered as a transport destination for patients who are not excluded by the parameters of this protocol.

Treatment and transportation will be accomplished by the most effective and efficient means possible to all patients with illness or injury in accordance with this procedure. It is incumbent upon all Fire Rescue personnel involved to act in the patient's best interest. Proper screening and accurate patient assessments must be utilized for all transport decisions.

This procedure is a supplement document to Protocol 4 and all other applicable Medical Operations Manual requirements.

B. Procedure

1. Patients exhibiting or complaining of any of the following will be **EXCLUDED**, and not considered eligible for transport to a Free-Standing ED.
 - a) Stroke Alert – or neurological assessments consistent with stroke
 - b) STEMI Alert
 - c) Trauma Alert
 - d) Chest Pain
 - e) OB >20 weeks
 - f) Patients in cardiac arrest or ROSC.

NOTE: The goal is to transport patients to a facility capable of managing their care through discharge. Consider bypassing the freestanding ED for patients who may require hospital admission. If there is any doubt or concern about a patient's condition the patient will be transported to a full-service hospital, as defined on the "Hospital Capability Chart" by a Fire Rescue unit.