

5 R's of Patient Transport:

Right Patient, Right Place, Right Treatment, Right Time, Right Inter-Hospital Transport

MacDonell R. Project Lead Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council & McCabe A. Programme Manager, National Transport Medicine Programme

Patients can require transfer between hospitals to access different specialist care services. For patients too clinically unwell to travel by private vehicle or taxi there are three levels of inter-hospital transport provided by the National Ambulance Service (NAS), in partnership with Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council (PHECC) and National Transport Medicine Programme (NTMP), under the overall governance of the Health Service Executive and Department of Health. To maintain integrity of these vital services, it is essential that clinicians requesting inter-hospital transfer understand the remit and function of each, thereby ensuring that the **right patient** is transferred to the **right destination** for the **right treatment** within the **right timeframe** utilising the **right mode of transport**. The National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) is responsible for coordinating all of these transfers.

Planned: Intermediate Care Vehicle Service (ICV)



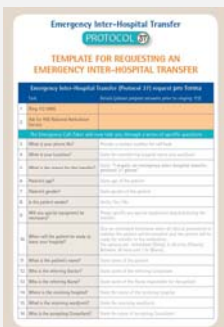
- Provides inter-hospital and inter-facility transfer of patients in order to support the Acute Hospitals planning/bed management and discharge policies
- Crewed by PHECC registered Emergency Medical Technicians and equipped for BLS
- Reduces the reliance on emergency ambulances, ensuring they are available to respond to emergency incidents when they arise

NTMP Critical Care Inter-Hospital Transfer

- Comprehensive retrieval/transfer system provided by the **NTMP** to ensure timely transfer for seriously ill infants, children and adults throughout Ireland, by appropriately trained and skilled teams of healthcare professionals
- Inter-hospital service where patients can be transferred to another hospital for specialist treatment and when appropriate, the patient is repatriated to the original hospital for on-going care. This ensures the patient gets the most appropriate care to meet their clinical needs.



Emergency: Protocol 37 Inter-Hospital Transfer



- **Protocol 37** facilitates emergency inter-hospital transfers for patients requiring a time-critical medical intervention or clinical skill-set not available within the current healthcare facility
- **Protocol 37** requests are prioritised by the National Emergency Call Centre (NEOC) **at the same level as a 112 (999) emergency call** in the community
- Crewed by PHECC registered paramedics
- To facilitate prompt return of the emergency ambulance to community services, the patient must be ready for transport in the requested timeframe (immediate, <30 Mins. or 30-60 Mins.) and the receiving hospital must endeavour to release the ambulance and crew as soon as possible.

CORRESPONDING AUTHORS: protocol37@phecc.ie or a.mccabe@phecc.ie