

Title: <i>Transfer of Patients from Outside Hospitals for Imaging Studies</i>		
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Approved: <i>Mason Frazier</i> 5/31/22 Mason Frazier, MD Date Executive Vice Chair & Medical Director, Radiology	Approved: N/A Date	Discontinued:

PURPOSE: To establish guidelines for the transfer of patients from outside hospitals to UAB for imaging studies or invasive procedures under imaging guidance.

SCOPE: This policy applies to all of UAB Medicine Clinical Facilities as defined by the UAB Hospital Medical Staff Bylaws.

POLICY STATEMENT: It is our belief that transfers of patients to UAB for imaging studies or invasive procedures under imaging guidance must be done in a manner that ensures patient safety during transport and while they are in our care.

ASSOCIATED INFORMATION:

- A. **Background Information:** Periodically, we receive requests from outside hospitals to transfer patients for diagnostic imaging studies or for invasive procedures under imaging guidance. It is essential that we accomplish these in a way that ensures patient safety. In most cases, the requests for these studies will be initially communicated to the technologist(s) in the desired modality and then discussed with the radiologist assigned to that modality/anatomic area at UH (University Hospital) as below.

POLICY:

- A. Patients being transferred from outside hospitals to UAB Main for Interventional Radiology (IR) or other Radiology procedures require an admitting service and bed. Patients are not accepted directly to IR, the Heart and Vascular Center (HVC), or Radiology.
 - 1.A.1. There is one exception to the above guideline. Patients from UAB Highlands can be transferred without admissions upon agreement with the attending IR or Radiologist on service or after hours call.
 - 1.A.2. For Radiology (CT, US, MRI, Diagnostic, and Molecular Imaging) procedures, patients are transported via ambulance. The patient's nurse at UAB Highlands coordinates the transport for arrival and PRU nursing coordinates ambulance service for the return trip.
 - 1.A.3. Every effort should be made to coordinate the patient's transport rapidly so that the IR, HVC, and Radiology teams are available. Delays in transport can lead to gaps in patient care or coverage.
- B. **Non-invasive Imaging Studies**
 - 1. Between 0730 and 1700 on weekdays, the attending radiologist responsible for the modality/anatomic area that day will be responsible for approving the exam.
 - 2. Between 0730 and 1700 on holidays and weekends, the attending radiologist on call for the modality/anatomic area will be responsible.
 - 3. Between 1700 and 2200, the evening attending or neuroradiology attending will be responsible.
 - 4. Between 2200 and 0720, the ED attending will be responsible.
- C. **Invasive Procedures**
 - 1. During business hours, these procedures must be approved by the radiologist and scheduled by the imaging schedulers. If needed after hours, radiology on-call personnel will be responsible for approval and performance.
 - 2. A physician who is involved in the care of the patient must accompany the patient to UAB. The patient's medical record, to include history and physical, current medication list and most recent vital signs, also must be available.

3. Patients will be admitted to the HVC for pre-procedure preparation and for post-procedure care.
4. We must ensure that there is an available ICU bed at UAB, should the patient’s condition deteriorate while at UAB, making a return to the referring hospital unsafe.
5. All invasive procedure (IR, HVC) patients must be transported by UAB Critical Care Transport (CCT). CCT transports are limited to a patient weight of 375lbs. Contact the MIST Operator at 205-934-6478 and ask for the CCT coordinator on call. Patients weighing more than 375 lbs. will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis to determine the safest transfer method for that patient.

D. Inpatient, not requiring ICU Care

1. A physician or nurse with knowledge of the patient must accompany the patient to UAB. The medical record, to include history and physical, current medication list and most recent vital signs, also must be available.

E. Inpatients, requiring Respiratory care, but not requiring ICU care

1. All patients must be transported by UAB Critical Care Transport (CCT). CCT Transports are limited to a patient weight of 375lbs. Contact the MIST Operator at 205-934-6478 and ask for the CCT coordinator on call. Patients weighing more than 375 lbs. will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis to determine the safest transfer method for that patient.
2. A physician who is involved in the care of the patient must accompany the patient to UAB. The patient’s medical record, to include history and physical, current medication list and most recent vital signs, also must be available.

...REFERENCES: None			
CMS:		TJCH:	
NFPA Ref #			
Cross-References (CR):			

ATTACHMENTS: None

INTERDISCIPLINARY COLLABORATION

<i>None</i>	
Physician / Medical Committees	Endorsement Date
<i>None</i>	
Committee(s)/Council(s)	Endorsement Date
<i>None</i>	
Hospital Department(s)	Endorsement Date

Tracking Record

Supersedes:	Transfer of Patients from Outside Hospitals for Imaging Studies 05/07/12, 4/6/15
File Name:	Transfer of Patients from Outside Hospitals for Imaging Studies R# 30r2
REVISIONS: Consistent with Joint Commission Standards, this policy is to be reviewed at least every 3 years as practice changes.	