

## New Transfer Policy Unveiled for MMC

*By Adrian Moran, MD, Associate CMO, MMC*

MMC has updated its Transfer Policy (“Accepting Inter Hospital Transfers”), which was last done in 2014. This new policy remains consistent with our obligations under EMTALA.

Even though we are regularly challenged with very high census numbers, we would rarely decline an urgent or emergent transfer due to lack of capacity or capability.

While you can view the [entire policy here](#), I would like to highlight key points.

MMC staff will communicate in a professional and respectful manner with providers and staff from referring institutions and help facilitate the care of such patients.

The accepting providers will classify patients as emergent, urgent or elective based on available clinical information:

- Emergent is defined as a condition with life or function-threatening consequences to delay in transfer
- Urgent is defined as an appropriate patient best served at MMC, who should be brought as soon as possible
- Elective is comprised of two subtypes:
  - “Elective medical” transfers are defined as patients who are stabilized and safe in the local facility but would benefit from services available at MMC
  - “Elective preference” transfers are defined as patients for whom a transfer to MMC has been requested for reasons of patient, family or provider preference.

The patient classification will help determine the frequency of updates on a patient’s condition and the transfer status with the referring hospital:

- Emergent - every 2 hours
- Urgent - every 12 hours
- Elective medical - call if no bed by 48 hours
- Elective preference - call if no bed by 48 hours

Elective transfers will follow the transfer assessment protocol overseen by Care Management and the Physician Advisor team.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.