



# Montgomery County Fire & Rescue Service

## Division of Operations

### Emergency Medical and Integrated Healthcare Services

#### HANDLING AND DOCUMENTATION OF PATIENT BELONGINGS

##### What’s the problem?

During the last several weeks, MCFRS has received an extraordinary amount of complaints, concerns, and questions regarding what happened to the belongings of patients who were treated and transported by MCFRS. This has included identification cards, mobility aids and other personal property items.

##### Why is this happening?

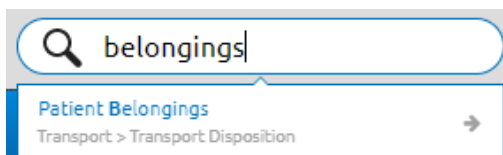
We believe that due to the prohibition against visitors at most hospitals, that patients don’t have the normal amount of “extra eyes” to help them look after their items. As the patient moves through the health care system, there are ample opportunities to misplace items.

##### What can you do to help?

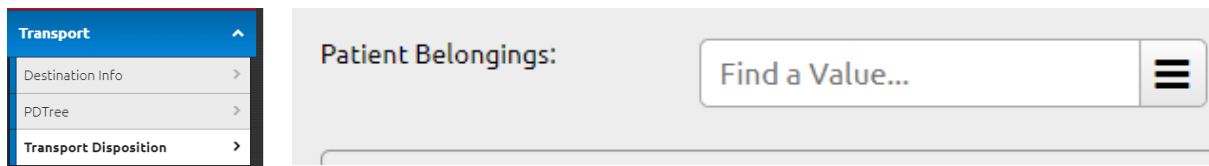
Primarily, ensure that you handle patient’s belongings to the minimum extent possible and constantly communicate with the patient what you are doing with them. Use the camera on the ePCR computer to your advantage, e.g. take pictures of medication lists, have the patient hold their ID card and scan it with the ePCR, etc.

Secondly, use the appropriate section in the ePCR (pictured below) to document what belongings the patient had with them upon arrival at the hospital. This will help HQ staff answer any questions that might come our way from patients and their relatives.

To access this section in eMEDS you can either search for “belongings” in the find field box (top left)



Or, go to the Transport>Transport Disposition tab and select the type of belongings you handled here:



It will open a list of types of belongings that you can select, which makes the “Patient Belongings Left With” field visible for you to select.

