

# Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service

## FIRE CHIEF'S GENERAL ORDER

**NUMBER: 13-15**

December 16, 2013

**TO:** All MCFRS Personnel

**FROM:** Fire Chief Steven E. Lohr



**SUBJECT:** EMS Transport Guidelines for Pregnant Patients to Suburban Hospital

Unlike most hospitals, Suburban Hospital does **not** have a Labor and Delivery Department, and therefore has limited capabilities for the evaluation and treatment of a pregnant patient. A pregnant patient transported to Suburban would most likely need to be transferred to another facility for further evaluation and possible admission. MCFRS recognizes that, while Maryland State EMS protocols are silent on this subject, common sense dictates that most pregnant patients should be taken to another facility that has OB/GYN capabilities. To assist MCFRS EMS providers in making the best decision on the patient's behalf, MCFRS' leadership and Suburban Hospital's Emergency and Trauma departments have agreed to the guidelines below.

MCFRS EMS providers **must transport the following pregnant patients to Suburban Hospital:**

1. Any **unstable Priority 1 medical patient** for whom **Suburban** is the **closest hospital**; or
2. Any **unstable Priority 1 trauma patient** for whom **Suburban** is the **closest Trauma Center**.

**CONVERSELY,**

MCFRS EMS providers **must NOT transport a STABLE Priority 2 or Priority 3 pregnant patient to Suburban Hospital. Instead, transport:**

1. A **stable Priority 2 or Priority 3 pregnant patient** to the **next closest appropriate hospital**, or, if within reasonable distance, to the hospital of the patient's choice; and
2. A **stable Priority 2 or Priority 3 pregnant trauma patient** to the **next closest appropriate Trauma Center**. All other area Trauma centers have OB/GYN capabilities.