

Altered Standards of Care EMS Red Alert Status



Variable stressors may impact hospital emergency centers affecting their ability to receive and/or treat patients transported by EMS. Altered Standards of Care (ASOC) enacted during these stressor periods can help relieve some of the difficulty and thereby helping to ensure proper triage and treatment of sick or injured patients. ASOC situations are rare and variable depending on the nature of the stressor on EMS, Hospitals, Community and Infrastructure. There is no one single situation to define when an Altered Standards of Care may need to be implemented (Examples: Emergency centers on EMS bypass at the same time, Earthquake, loss of communication, loss of critical infrastructure, increased patient load due to community spread of disease [pandemic]).

An Altered Standards of Care (ASOC) will/may be enacted when EMS care in Lucas County is compromised due to emergency center overcrowding. When the majority or all Lucas County based emergency centers are on EMS Bypass, LCEMS Dispatch will declare an 'EMS Red Alert.' The following guidelines for ASOC will be utilized during the declared EMS Red Alert defined by LCEMS Dispatch.

Procedure / Protocol

- Protocol applies to patient age 12-50 years
- **On-Line Medical Control** physician's judgement (during contact) may be that emergent EMS transport is not indicated. That determination would come from EMS providing a thorough, problem-focused assessment.
- Paramedics will verbally declare patient to **On-Line Medical Control** physician as an Altered Standards of Care (ASOC) patient.
- When paramedics believe that emergent transport is indicated, they will not request (or verbalize) ASOC.
- Upon declaration of an ASOC patient, EMS Dispatch will assign the closest emergency center for purposes of **On-Line Medical Control** and transport destination.
- Acceptable vital signs as determined by paramedic assessment and **On-Line Medical Control** review.
- SpO2 \geq 95%.
- Heart Rate < 100 if temperature < 101°F.
- Paramedics will educate patients that don't qualify for transport under ASOC conditions. Patient have options of seeking care at their personal physician's office, alternate care sites or urgent care centers.