



# OHIO MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION BOARD

*Ensuring Safe Medical Transportation*

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September 13, 2007

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To: All Medical Transportation Organizations

From: Ronald Grout, Executive Director  
Becky Baute, Chairperson

Ref: Advanced Life Support -vs. - Mobile Intensive Care Unit Utilization

Ohio Licensed MTO's,

The Ohio Medical Transportation Board has experienced a significant increase of inquiries and complaints concerning the appropriate mode of transport of critical care patients. The most frequent concern relates to who should be transported in an Advanced Life Support ambulance and who should be transported in a Mobile Intensive Care Unit (MoICU).

The Board has reviewed existing statutes, rules, and established standards of care for critical care transports. The decision to utilize an Advanced Life Support ambulance versus Mobile Intensive Care Unit should be a coordinated decision between the transferring facility and the transporting organization. However, it is ultimately the responsibility of the transferring physician to decide what level of transport is appropriate for the patient based on acuity, response time, required infusing medications en route, physician-ordered medical device, and other factors.

Prior to reaching a mode of transport decision, the physician should measure the benefit to the patient against the risks involved in the transfer. Patient safety and the continuum of care must be maintained at all times. The transferring facility must then weigh the benefit to the patient and the patient care requirements against the capabilities of the Medical Transportation Organization (MTO) selected. The MTO must consider its capability to maintain the required continuum of care without exceeding the scope of practice of its employees.

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An Advanced Life Support organization that knowingly accepts a patient that should be transported by an Mobile Intensive Care Unit may be in violation of 4766, more specific **OAC 4766-2-19(F), "Incompetence, negligence or misconduct in operating the licensed MTO or in providing emergency medical care to patients"**, and, **OAC 4766-2-19(P), "Action by the licensed MTO that is reckless or negligent so as to endanger the health or safety of patients and members of the general public while in the course of business as a licensed MTO"**. Such activity may be subject to fines, suspension and/or revocation of MTO's license to operate.

The decision to use an Advanced Life Support Ambulance in lieu of a Mobile Intensive Care Unit requires thoughtful consideration for the reasons cited above. The ultimate goal is to provide the level of care that is in the best interest of patient safety and care during transport.