



GENERAL: Load & Go

- a. Refer to appropriate Emergency Treatment Guideline for a complete description and/or application.
- b. EMS personnel should use a rapid and organized assessment of the situation to determine whether a patient requires immediate transport.
- c. Determining whether to initiate “load and go” should include, but not limited to;

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> mechanism of injury presence or absence of signs and symptoms of shock nature and severity of injuries mental status other pertinent information from the patient, family, bystanders, first responder agency, or allied medical staff indicating the patient’s condition was or is unstable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> level of consciousness changes in both nature and severity of any illness poisoning environmental exposure
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- d. Determining the need for immediate transport is ongoing and begins at the initiation of the call through to final delivery of the patient at the receiving health care facility.
- e. New threats to life or limb may influence the decision regarding immediate transport.
- f. Non-lifesaving techniques and interventions should not delay transport. Further assessments, interventions and treatments should be done en route if time, the patient condition, and the provision of lifesaving treatment permits.
- g. In the setting of cardiorespiratory arrest or any resuscitation situation, every effort should be made to minimize on scene times and initiate transport of the patient to the nearest appropriate health care facility as soon as possible. EMS personnel should perform initial interventions to manage airway, breathing, and circulation (including defibrillation, if indicated and available) prior to initiating transport.
- h. “Load and Go” does not mean do nothing - continue to treat or correct the life threatening problem(s) while preparing the patient for transport. Life-threatening conditions may be identified and corrected at any point during the response. Attempt to correct life threatening problem(s) as per the appropriate ETG.
- i. Factors involved in whether a “load and go” is initiated include whether or not the condition can be definitively and effectively managed at the scene, scope of practice and level of training of the EMS personnel, equipment and resources available, local policies affecting transport, proximity to a health care facility, and environmental conditions.
- j. Obtain information on the situation from relatives, witnesses, and other response personnel.
- k. On scene times should be kept to a minimum with transport to the nearest appropriate health care facility. Monitor, assess and treat en route. Notify and report patient status and all findings to the receiving facility staff and document all actions on the patient care report including the decision to initiate load and go (if applicable).
- l. Monitor and treat the patient en route per appropriate Emergency Treatment Guideline(s). Other life threatening complications should be treated if possible and may need to be attended to while en route.
- m. If advanced life support (ALS) is available, EMS personnel should request early response of these personnel to the scene or consider an ALS intercept. Transport should not be delayed for ALS arrival.