



HEMS

HELICOPTER EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

FLIGHT AUTHORISATION CRITERIA

0060 FLIGHT

OR 087 288 5555

MEDICAL CALL-OUT CRITERIA

- HEAD INJURIES** with an initial GCS of between 5 and 12 out of 15, or with focal neurological deficit
- STROKE PATIENTS** where time to a stroke centre can be significantly reduced by air transport
- HYPOTENSIVE PATIENTS** with a systolic blood pressure of less than 80mmHg despite attempted haemorrhage control, fluid resuscitation and or inotropic support
- RESPIRATORY DISTRESS** despite oxygenation, where advanced airway management or mechanical ventilatory support is deemed necessary
- SUSPECTED MYOCARDIAL INFARCTION OR UNSTABLE ARRHYTHMIA** where time to definitive care can be significantly reduced by air transport
- NEAR DROWNING** with haemodynamic compromise despite resuscitation attempts
- OBSTETRIC / NEONATAL EMERGENCIES** where specialist care is not immediately available
- SUSPECTED SPINAL INJURY** with or without neurological deficit, where transfer times by road are extended or terrain may prove detrimental to patient outcomes
- THREATENED LIMBS** with significant vascular compromise
- PENETRATING TRAUMA** to the head, neck, thorax and/or abdomen involving underlying organs or vascular structures
- BURNS** in adults with a BSA of 20-80% or in children with a BSA of 10% or more, or burns to the face, neck and chest with potential airway compromise
- REFRACTORY ANAPHYLAXIS**
- ELECTROCUTION** with unstable arrhythmia or neurological deficit
- HYPOTHERMIA < 35°C or HYPERTHERMIA > 40°C** patients requiring advanced interventions and/or management, not immediately available
- LIFE THREATENING MEDICAL CONDITIONS** that require advanced interventions and/or management that is not immediately available
- ANY SIGNIFICANT MEDICAL CONDITION** where the expertise of medical flight crew is likely to benefit patient outcomes



SHOULD YOU, AT ANYTIME, BE UNSURE WHETHER OR NOT A PATIENT WILL BENEFIT FROM A MEDICAL FLIGHT PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO ESCALATE THE MATTER TO OUR DISPATCH CENTRE, WHERE WE WILL BE HAPPY TO ASSIST



'PATIENT PACKAGING' : Air Ambulance Preparation for Aero-Medical Transportation

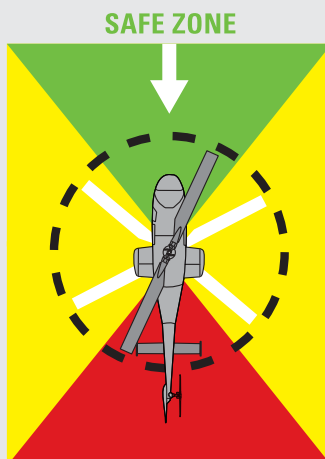
- A Airway:** Patent; C-Spine immobilization; Intercostal Drain for suspected Haemo-/ Pneumo-Thorax; Naso-gastric tube; C-Spine and Chest X-ray where possible
- B Oxygenation:** 40% Oxygen Facemask / Ventilated - 'Resusbag' with reservoir
- C Circulation:** Haemorrhage control; Urine catheter
- D Drips:** At least one large bore and patent
- D Drugs:** Have Special drugs been administered or are they required
- D Dressings:** All wounds to be dressed with clean dressings where possible
- E Evacuation:** Call as early as possible; Furnish as much information regarding patient Diagnosis & Condition; Inter-Facility Transfer and Medical cover information where applicable; Passengers accompanying patients will only be accommodated with prior arrangement
- F Fractures:** Splint all - 'Backslab' / Kramer Wire splint; Bi-valve POP casts



PRIMARY (SCENE) CALL INFORMATION

1. Park the police, fire or ambulance vehicle directly under any power lines or cables that may cross the roadway near the landing zone
2. Stand with your back to the wind 10 metres from where you want the helicopter to land
3. Secure the landing zone (approx. 30 m X 30 m) against all loose or light debris
4. Allow no persons but dedicated rescue personnel within 50 metres of the helicopter
5. Ensure the landing zone is as level as possible.
If not, DO NOT approach the helicopter from the uphill side.
Communicate with the helicopter via radio if possible.
Do not approach the helicopter unless the flight crew requests you to do so
6. Do not activate smoke grenade in centre or upwind of loading zone
7. Control the crowd and bystanders

SAFETY RULES AROUND THE HELICOPTER



1. Always wait for the pilot's signal before approaching the aircraft
2. Approach/depart the helicopter from the **GREEN AREA ONLY**
3. Keep low and walk to and from the helicopter **NEVER RUN**
4. At the helicopter, LISTEN for and obey the crew members' instructions
5. All loose items on the stretcher must be SECURED
Carry all long items **HORIZONTALLY** only
6. NEVER approach/depart or step in the **RED AREA**
7. HATS/CAPS and HELMETS should be strapped onto your head or not worn at all
8. Do not bring vehicles within 30 metres of the helicopter
9. DO NOT SMOKE around the helicopter