

LIMA VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE 7024 WEST MAIN STREET, LIMA NY	P #08 REV. A
PEDIATRIC CARE POLICY	DATE: 9/2024
CONTROLLING FUNCTION: CHIEF	PAGE: 1 of 3

1. **PURPOSE: Policy and Standard Operating Procedure for how members of LVA approach pediatric patients including:**

- 1.1. [Treatment of Minors:](#)
- 1.2. [Pediatric Equipment:](#)
- 1.3. [Family Centered Care:](#)
- 1.4. [Pediatric Positioning:](#)
- 1.5. [Developmental Delays/Communication Differences](#)
- 1.6. [Children with Medical Equipment and Special Health Care Needs](#)

2. **Treatment of Minors:**

- 2.1. In the event of encountering a minor patient; Lima Volunteer Ambulance (LVA) will follow the MLREMS guidance on treatment of minors.
- 2.2. All Minors will be treated in emergent situations regardless of the presence of a parent or guardian following the legal doctrine of implied consent.
- 2.3. In such situations, LVA will make every reasonable effort to contact the child's parent/guardian either directly, or through law enforcement, and will not delay treatment or transportation while doing so.
- 2.4. If the minor is refusing treatment and/or transport and the crew feels that the minor needs such care/transport, Law Enforcement will be contacted immediately.

3. **Pediatric Equipment:**

- 3.1. LVA will carry pediatric equipment required by DOH including but not limited to pediatric size NPA/OPA, NRB, NC, BVM, blood pressure cuff, pulse oximetry, suction catheters and OB kit with sterile bunting
- 3.2. LVA will also carry pediatric mobility equipment including a Ferno pediamate
- 3.3. LVA staff will train on pediatric equipment and treatment during the annual training cycle

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4. Family Centered Care:

- 4.1. LVA recognizes that Family Centered Care (FCC) is a key component of prehospital medicine and family's play a crucial role in assessing and carrying for a child.
- 4.2. LVA will make every effort to include families in the care of their child and decision making related to care and transport. When protocol or assessment dictates that a variation from the parents wishes is indicated, the crew will respectfully communicate the rationale for this decision.
- 4.3. LVA will use families as a resource by having them provide pertinent history, special developmental concerns, baseline status, and strategies for care.
- 4.4. All members of the crew will explain equipment and procedures to both the family and the child throughout the transport using language they can understand
- 4.5. LVA will use clear communication and express empathy and understanding about the emotions associated with the ambulance call. Whenever possible, the crew will allow the family space to communicate their feelings.

5. Pediatric Positioning:

- 5.1. It is not permissible or safe to have a parent or caregiver hold a child in his or her arms or lap. The child and parent/caregiver should each be restrained appropriately
- 5.2. A family member is encouraged to ride along with a pediatric patient to provide comfort and support
- 5.3. Family members who will be meeting the ambulance at the hospital will be advised of hospital destination, parking options, how to reach the patient once they reach the hospital and importance of safety while driving to the hospital
- 5.4. Whenever possible, a child will be transported in their car seat which is secured to the stretcher using the seatbelts either on the stretcher or bench seat. The car seat will face backwards throughout the transport.
- 5.5. If a car seat is not available, LVA will use the Ferno child safety device to safely secure the child to the stretcher
- 5.6. If a minor child is transported with a parent as the patient, the child may be placed in the child safety seat that is part of the airway/captain's seat.



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6. Developmental Delays/Communication Differences

- 6.1. LVA has laminated communication boards with PECs, ASL flip books and a dry erase board with marker that can be used to augment communication
- 6.2. Translation apps are loaded onto the ipad in each rig to assist with communication if English is not the child and/or family primary language
- 6.3. Sensory bags and stuffed animals are located on each rig and should be used to help distract and calm when appropriate.
- 6.4. LVA will consider dimming the lights and decreasing sensory input when it is deemed safe during assessment
- 6.5. LVA will assess with the family and patient if the use of weight from blankets or music would be helpful

7. Children with Medical Equipment and Special Health Care Needs

- 7.1. LVA will follow the DOH guideline for care of children with special health care needs which includes
 - Assessing and communicating at the child's developmental age not chronological age
 - Looking for medical alert jewelry and forms if the caregiver is not available
 - Asking the caregiver about the child's baseline and best ways to care for the child and understand that the caregiver will many times be the expert on their child's condition and medical care.
 - Technology assisted children will be assessed using DOPE and LVA will reference the MURU and DOH protocols

 Rural/Metro Medical Services 50 Years of Serving Others	Policy and Procedure Manual
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Policy: 4.64 EMS Vehicle Operation	
This Policy applies to the following employees: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RMMS (non union) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RMMS (union) <input type="checkbox"/> RMMS (nursing)	
Origination Date: 10/95	Revision Date: 09/04 , 12/06, 09/10, 07/11
Originator: Operations	Approved: 

It is the policy of the company to respond to request for service in a manner that is both timely and safe. When operating a company ambulance, employees will drive in accordance with all New York State Vehicle and Traffic Laws

Both Crewmembers are equally accountable for the operation and condition of the assigned vehicle.

The company requires an Emergency Driving Program (CEVO) that must be successfully completed by every employee before driving a company vehicle.

Emergency Response Guidelines

- When dispatched on an emergency response, employees shall proceed immediately, in a calm safe manner, to their assigned vehicle and respond to the incident using the appropriate warning devices for the priority of the call. "Chute" times are not to exceed 60 seconds (one minute).
- Crews assigned to a post location are required to respond to radio calls immediately. Crews having secure permission to "step out" or who are on a company approved Rest and Lunch period are required to have communication devices (radio, cell phone) on and operational. "Chute" times are not to exceed 60 seconds (1 minute) for any ALS priority call and 120 seconds (2 minutes) for all other priority responses. The SSC may require that only half the crew step out at a time (code 50).
- It is the responsibility of the employee passenger to guide the person driving to the scene using area maps and street directories. The use of non-company Global Positioning Systems (GPS), as well as MapQuest or any other electronic routing will not be permitted when responding to any emergency or non emergency call within the company's response districts. The employee passenger should give clear definitive directions to the incident location. Sufficient information as to the location of the call should be obtained from the communications center prior to driving to the call.
- When responding to the scene, the employee passenger should always watch for approaching traffic from the right of all intersections. The driver must ensure at all times that traffic is clear in all directions.
- Whenever proceeding to the scene of an emergency incident, pass other vehicles on the left. If this requires driving in the opposing lane of traffic, be sure that oncoming traffic is clear and proceed with extreme caution.
- Never pass a vehicle on the right unless it is impossible to pass on the left. If you pass on the right, use extreme caution making sure all vehicles are aware of your presence. Proceed at the slowest possible speed and anticipate possible vehicle reactions to you being on the right.
- Whenever approaching a Yellow light slow down and prepare to stop.
- Clear intersections one lane at a time.
- Ambulances must stop for School Buses with their flashing lights on regardless of emergency responses.

Non-Emergency Response Guideline

- "Chute" times for non-emergency responses will be the same as emergency responses.
- In cases that crews are assigned to pre-scheduled transports, crew will leave allowing ample time to reach the patient at the point of origin prior to the scheduled pick up time. Employees should take into account factors that could delay a timely response, i.e. traffic, and weather conditions, distance to facility.



Policy: EMS Vehicle Operation

- No warning lights or siren will be used for any non-emergency request for service.

Vehicle Safety

- Headlights will be on at all times the vehicle is operated.
- Maintain a safe following distance (approximately four (4) seconds).
- Make gradual changes in speed and direction.
- Reduce speed in low visibility
- Look ahead for potential hazards. Get the "big picture."
- Parking brake will be set whenever the vehicle is parked.
- Posted vehicles should remain parked during periods of inclement weather. Post to post moves may be halted during such times.
- Four way flashes are not to be used while responding in emergency mode.
- Turn signals will be used whenever vehicle is operated.
- Secondary lights or four way flashes should be used while ambulance is parked at a scene.

Distracted Driver

Rural/Metro Corporation deeply values the safety and well-being of all employees. Due to the increase number of studies that clearly show a correlation between driver distractions, such as cell phone use, and unsafe vehicle operation, the company is instituting a local policy regarding driver distractions that is aligned with the company's overall approach to identification of hazards in the workplace and application of appropriate controls to reduce risk.

- ***The Company prohibits the use of a cell phone by an employee while operating a moving vehicle.***
- Reading or responding to e-mails or text messages while operating a company vehicle, personal/rental vehicle on company business and or company time is strictly prohibited.
- This policy also applies to the use of all electronic devices (including PDA's, Blackberry, iPhone, other Smartphones, GPS and other mobile devices).
- Employees are prohibited from programming or adjusting Global Positioning Systems (GPS) portable or fixed devices while driving a Company vehicle or a personal/rental vehicle on Company business.
- The use of iPods, MP3 players, car buds, head phones, video games and DVD players while driving is strictly prohibited.
- Two way radio use is essential to our operations and is the primary means of communication, therefore, two way radio use is permitted where essential business-related or emergency communication is required while driving a Company vehicle or personal/rental vehicle on Company business. Mounting of communications equipment should take into account the ease of use for the driver.

Application

This policy is effective as of the date assigned and applies to staff using any electronic device while driving a Company vehicle or personal/rental vehicle on Company business. Use of electronic devices while stopped and legally parked in a safe location is acceptable. Reaching a point of being stopped and legally parked must be undertaken in a safe manner in compliance with the rules of the road.

There are countless distractions (i.e. eating, drinking, grooming, reading, and other passengers) that can put safe vehicle operation at risk. Employees driving a Company vehicle or a personal/rental vehicle on Company business must be aware of all distractions and minimize the risk to themselves, other employees and the general public.

Enforcement

Any employee charged, by police, with traffic and/or other infractions as a result of the use of electronic devices while driving will be responsible for paying any fines, penalties and/or associated cost.



It is the driver's responsibility to understand jurisdictional legislation surrounding the use of mobile devices while driving and a citation for this infraction could affect the driver's license and/or personal insurance.

Vehicle Routing

- Personnel should be making every effort to become familiar with the company's response district.
- Do not attempt to take "short cuts." Stay on main roads as much as possible. The risk of becoming lost by cutting through residential areas, or not being familiar with an area will cause delays in response times.
- Check with communications daily for an updated list of road closings and changes in traffic patterns.
- Avoid schools, playgrounds and other densely populated areas as much as possible.
- The ambulance is designed to stay on constructed roads. DO NOT attempt to take the ambulance off road in an area where it might get stuck, damaged or disabled.

Intersections

- It is essential that the person driving approach all intersections with caution. It is important to remember in a lot of newer vehicles that most outside noises are filtered out. The use of stereos, air conditioners, cell phones may cause other driver not to pay attention to their surroundings.
- When approaching an intersection and confronted with a stop sign or red light the ambulance **WILL** come to a complete stop. Traffic must be cleared in all directions before proceeding into the intersection. Eye contact should be made with all other drivers to ensure that they see you as well.
- Traveling through an intersection where we have a red light without coming to a full stop and clearing the intersection prior to proceeding through that intersection will result in immediate investigative suspension that may result in discipline up to and including termination.
- When approaching an intersection with a green light or no traffic control, you will slow and clear the intersection before proceeding.
- When turning at an intersection use the proper turn signal to announce your intention. Turn signals will be used whenever making lane changes or changes in direction.
- When forced to make a right hand turn from the left lane while in front of traffic be sure to signal your intention. After the intersection is clear the employee passenger should be looking out the passenger window to ensure that traffic will remain stopped while you complete the turn. As always clear each lane, one at a time.

Excessive Speed.

- The posted speed limits may be exceeded by ten (10) MPH while responding with lights and sirens. All highways speeds will not exceed 65 MPH regardless of an emergency job. Weather condition must be accounted for and speed adjusted to meet the conditions. The posted speed limits in school zones will be followed without deviation. Strict adherence to posted speed limits while driving non-emergently will be enforced.



Policy: EMS Vehicle Operation

Braking

- **START BRAKING SOONER-** because of the greater weight of an ambulance you will need more time and space to stop the vehicle.
- Follow all other vehicles using the four (4) second rule to avoid and anticipate sudden stops.
- Slow down and stop smoothly. Stopping in this manner will reduce brake wear and will be gentler on your partner and patient.
- Whenever stopped in traffic bring the ambulance to a stop one full ambulance length behind any other vehicle. This will allow room to have an emergent egress should you receive a call or the patients' condition changes. This will also allow room to stop the ambulance in the event that you are hit from behind and prevent you from striking the vehicle in front of you.

Lights and Sirens

- All emergency responses will be conducted with the operation of all emergency warning devices. If operating in emergency status, the siren must be audible from a distance of 500 feet. The siren must be used within 500 feet of any intersection, occupied vehicle and pedestrian. For these reasons the siren must be on at all times during an emergency response. Discretion may be used when traveling over open roads and when not within 500 feet of an intersection not in a residential area.
- When driving on the highway for an emergency response the lights and siren should not be used unless to clear congested traffic in the area of the incident. While on scene of any highway call the secondary emergency lights will be activated.
- Excessive speed while using the siren may cause the ambulance to out drive the siren. This will cause confusion as to your exact location and may cause another driver to react dangerously prior to you passing the vehicle.
- **DO NOT** use short siren blasts or bleeps or whoops, it will be difficult to determine in which direction the ambulance is approaching.

Climate Conditions

- A very important factor in emergency vehicle operation is the weather. Good or Bad, weather will have a direct impact on the operation and performance of the vehicle.
- If visibility is reduced adjust speed accordingly.
- In hot weather you may need to monitor the gauges and keep in mind that the vehicle may overheat. In colder weather it will take longer for the vehicle to reach a proper running temperature, which will cause undue engine wear if driven too soon.
- Road surfaces will dictate the speed in which you will be able to travel safely. Keep in mind that in poor road conditions that the ambulances are rear wheel drive, extremely heavy and will handle poorly.

Irrational Behavior

- The person driving the ambulance must remain calm, alert and not become irritated or irrational. The safety and well being of many people rests with the judgment and reactions of the person driving. If an individual that is not satisfied ever confronts you about your driving, contact the on duty Operations office as well as communications to advise them of the situation. **DO NOT** take matters into your own hands. If Law Enforcement is needed make the advisement as soon as possible
- Instances of "road rage" by employees will not be tolerated. The employee in control of the vehicle must also control their frame of mind and actions.



Parking at the Scene

- Attempt to park the ambulance as close to the scene as possible. This will put the patient closer to the ambulance and will allow for easier access to additional equipment as needed. Take care not to park the ambulance so close to the patient as to put the patient near the exhaust.
- **SIZE UP THE SCENE.** Assess an accident scene for fuel leaks, downed power lines, hazardous materials, and trapped victims, etc. When choosing a place to park be aware of potential hazards and take appropriate precautions not to put yourself and your partner in harms way.
- At an accident scene, law enforcement is generally there before EMS. Follow the direction of the law enforcement with the placement of the ambulance. **DO NOT GET BLOCKED IN**, leave yourself a means of egress especially if there are more incoming emergency units.
- If the ambulance is on scene first, park the ambulance in front or past the incident and leave your box lights on to mark the scene.

Backing

- Remember that you have a limited view while backing the ambulance. The person backing the ambulance must be proficient at maneuvering and able to anticipate possible hazards. Before backing a complete walk around should be done to recognize any barriers to moving the ambulance. When backing the unit, a spotter is mandatory. The spotters will place themselves in a position to be seen from the driver's side mirror. **REMEMBER** a spotter does not relieve the driver of the responsibility of safely backing the ambulance and any damage to the vehicle or other property. If backing the ambulance with a patient on board the employee with the patient should, if patient care will allow, look out the rear and side windows to advise of any potential hazards or on oncoming traffic.

Driving to the Hospital

- Emergency lights and sirens will not be used during the transport of a patient unless there is a life-threatening situation (500, severe hemorrhage, unresponsive, etc).
- It will be the decision of the technician in charge of the patient to make the choice of driving to the hospital in an emergent mode. **Extreme** caution must be used in this situation since your partners and the patients are at a greater risk of injury in the event of an accident.
- Be mindful of family or friends attempting to follow the ambulance in an emergent mode. Never attempt to out run any vehicle following the ambulance.
- It is the drivers' responsibility to advise the technician taking care of the patient if driving the ambulance in an emergency mode would create more of a liability (weather conditions, traffic etc.)
- During ALS mutual aid calls the unit following the transporting ambulance will not follow in an emergent mode.

Passengers (Code 8)

- Family or friend passengers are allowed to ride to the hospital with the patient as long as they are eighteen (18) years of age or the child of the patient. All passengers are to ride in the cab of the ambulance with seatbelts unless the passenger is the parent of the patient and having them in the patient compartment will aid in the comfort of the patient. If the passenger is in the patient compartment they must be belted.
- The crew has the right to deny any passenger from riding in the ambulance if there is a suspicion of intoxication or the passenger is hostile or uncooperative. If the passenger refuses to comply with seat belts or the direction of the crew, they will be asked to leave. If the passenger is not cooperative, and patient condition allows, contact the on duty Operations Officer to respond as well as asking for law enforcement.
- Passengers acting as interpreters may ride in patient compartment if properly secured.



Policy: EMS Vehicle Operation

- No passengers that are not accompanying the patient are allowed in the ambulance. This means no off-duty personnel, family or friends will be transported in the ambulance unless participating in an approved training program with the permission of Operations staff.

Motor Vehicle Collisions with Company Vehicles

- In the event of an MVC, notify the communications center and the on duty Operations Officer immediately. Give your exact location, the number of vehicles involved, if you are blocking traffic, how many potential patients and the condition of the ambulance.
- If responding to a call, inform dispatch of the need to send a different unit on the call.
- If there is a patient on board, only leave the scene if the patient has a life threatening illness or injury.
- **Do not admit liability to anyone.**
- Never leave the patient unattended in the ambulance.
- Take all necessary precautions to avoid further accidents at the scene. Use flares, reflectors, and box lights to mark the scene, if the MVC is minor move to a safe location and wait for the on duty Operations Officer and Law Enforcement.
- Do not attempt to chase anyone or anything if the MVC is a hit and run situation.
- Obtain the license plate information from all vehicles involved, along with names of all parties involved and any witnesses.

Witnessed Accidents

If a non-transporting in service ambulance witness an MVC, stop and render aid. Advise the communications center of the details of the incident and that you will be rendering care. Advise on the need for additional equipment.

If an ambulance that is responding to a call or on a transport witnesses an MVC advise the communication office that:

- Accident location, potential number of victims and what additional resources may be needed.
- If the patient is stable, the driver may stop and render aid with the permission of the technician treating the patient.
- If the patient is unstable or potentially unstable continue on the transport.
- Never leave a patient unattended.

The forgoing provisions shall not relieve the driver of an emergency vehicle from the duty to drive with DUE REGARD for the safety of all persons, nor shall such provisions protect the driver from the consequences of their reckless disregard for the safety of others. (ref NYS Vehicle and Traffic Law).