

Patient needs urgent or emergency transport to hospital or between hospitals

Clinician to refer to the booking checklist

Would it be clinically safe for the patient to travel by their own means or with a family member / friend / neighbour?

YES

NO

No transport available to them

Go by their own means

Consider volunteer ambulance car or taxi / Patient Transport Service

Is the patient ready to travel?

YES

NO

Call the healthcare professional number:
Kent: 0300 123 5814
Surrey: 0300 123 9882
Sussex: 0300 123 9163

Please ensure the patient is ready to travel, then give us a call on the HCP number.

In immediately life-threatening emergencies always call 999.

The healthcare professional number is not for use by members of the public

Requesting ambulance transport



A guide for healthcare professionals

This guide is designed to make it quicker and easier for healthcare professionals to request an ambulance for patients who need urgent or emergency transportation to hospital or between hospital sites.

The Healthcare professional numbers are:

Kent: 0300 123 5814

Surrey: 0300 123 9882

Sussex: 0300 123 9163

During the call, you will be asked clinical questions about the patient's condition. In a life-threatening situation or an emergency request, it is the responsibility of the attending clinician to make the request to the ambulance trust. Where delegation is unavoidable, the individual making the request should be able to answer triage questions about the patient's condition.

When you book transport, a clinician from our Ambulance Operations Centre may get back in touch with you for further assessment to ensure the right response is sent to the patient.

Emergency ambulance transport cannot be booked for repatriations or step-down transfers/discharges to non-hospital facilities and outpatient appointments.

When you call the healthcare professional number, the questions we ask will collect the clinical information needed to determine the level of response required. There are four levels of response ranging from life-threatening emergency to non-urgent.

Types of condition	
Life-threatening	Where immediately life-saving clinical interventions are required from the ambulance service in addition to emergency transport to an appropriate emergency department or specialist receiving unit e.g. cardiac arrest, birth units requiring immediate assistance, acute severe or life-threatening asthma in an urgent care facility.
Emergency	Patients assessed as needing immediate clinical care in hospital in an emergency department or specialist receiving unit e.g. acute myocardial infarction, acute stroke, serious injury, sepsis, patients requiring limb-saving surgery.
Urgent (non-blue light response)	Patients assessed as requiring urgent admission or transfer with conditions that are not immediately life, limb or sight threatening e.g. urgent assessment by a specialist, urgent admission to hospital or investigations to inform on-going care, such as urgent CT or MRI.
Non-Urgent (non-blue light response)	Patients assessed as not urgent but require transport for ongoing care within a clinically appropriate time frame e.g. patients who are clinically stable in their current environment and are being transferred for elective or semi-elective procedures or investigations.

Booking checklist

Before calling, please consider whether your patient could make their own way to hospital or may be eligible for the Patient Transport Service. If not, please ensure the patient is ready to travel and that you have the following information:

Summary of patient's condition	Patient's mobility (walking /wheelchair/stretchers/incubator – including type)	
Name of authorising HCP	Provide details of any patient infections	
Contact details of authorising HCP or deputy	Advise if there are any family or clinical escorts	
Location the patient needs collecting from	If the patient requires medication en route, is it ready to transport?	
Destination (inc. ward/clinic)	Could the patient travel with others as part of a multi-occupancy transfer?	
Patient's full name	Probability of clinical deterioration	
Patient's NHS number	Special requirements/ instructions	
Anything else you think we need to know		

NEWS2

Physiological parameter	Score						
	3	2	1	0	1	2	3
Respiration rate (per minute)	≤8		9-11	12-20		21-24	≥25
SpO ₂ Scale 1 (%)	≤91	92-93	94-95	≥96			
SpO ₂ Scale 2 (%)	≤83	84-85	86-87	88-92 ≥93 on air	93-94 on oxygen	95-96 on oxygen	≥97 on oxygen
Air or oxygen?		Oxygen		Air			
Systolic blood pressure mm(Hg)	≤90	91-100	101-110	111-219			≥220
Pulse (per minute)	≤40		41-50	51-90	91-110	111-130	≥131
Consciousness							CVPU
Temperature	≤35.0		35.1-36.0	36.1-38.0	38.1-39.0	≥39.1	

Reproduced from: Royal College of Physicians. National Early Warning Score (NEWS2): Standardising the assessment of acute-illness severity in the NHS. Updated report of a working party. London: RCP, 2017.