



**DELAWARE HEALTH
AND SOCIAL SERVICES**

Division of Public Health
Office of Emergency Medical Services
Medical Director

Delaware EMS Medical Directors' Policy on Basic Life Support Transport of Ventilator Dependent Patients

Regarding requests from private interfacility ambulance service providers;

Delaware does not have a protocol for Basic Life Support (BLS) personnel to transport ventilator dependant patients without advanced ventilator trained personnel providing direct patient care. A ventilator dependent patient must have someone trained in the operation of the particular ventilator in use, who is also familiar with the monitoring and management of a patient with a ventilator failure. This person may be a respiratory therapist, registered nurse, paramedic or physician. Ideally, the person managing the ventilator will be familiar with providing care in the ambulance environment. A family member trained in the recognition of ventilator problems and management of respiratory distress might be considered as an appropriate provider, but we would recommend that the transporting BLS company, check with their insurance agent before providing a transport service with family in attendance. Calling for public paramedic resources is inappropriate for interfacility transports unless an unanticipated complication occurs during transportation. Delaware prehospital paramedics do not have specific ventilator training. Paramedics called to an unanticipated interfacility ventilator patient transport problem, will be expected to manage the patient's airway and breathing and to transport the patient to the nearest appropriate emergency department.

Effective December 2, 2009

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ross E. Megargel".

**Ross E. Megargel, DO., FACER,
State EMS Medical Director
Office of Emergency Medical Services
Division of Public Health**