



South Carolina Area Association of Air Medical Services

Title: Recommended Weather Reporting Policy
Origination Date: June 3, 2005
Review Date(s): _____
Revision Date(s): _____
Effective Date: June 3, 2005

Participating Programs

AirLink – Wilmington, NC
Air Med – Augusta, GA
CareForce - Columbia, SC
Emory Flight – Jefferson, GA
Life Reach – Columbia, SC
LifeStar One – Savannah, GA

MCG LifeNet – Augusta, GA
MedCenter Air – Charlotte, NC
MedTrans One – Greenville, SC
MEDUCARE – Charleston, SC
Regional One – Spartanburg, SC
SkyCare – Anderson, SC

I. Background

The South Carolina Area Association of Air Medical Services (SCAAAMS) was formed to promote safety and quality patient care among the air medical programs servicing South Carolina.

This document serves as a recommended policy for SCAAAMS members so that all member programs are informed of transports that are turned down for weather by other member programs and that the data is used in their consideration of taking the transport. Nothing in this policy prevents a member from taking a transport that another member has turned down for weather only in informing and using that information in their decision making. The program taking the transport must be called independently by the referring agency and cannot use the weather information to solicit a flight unless requested by the informing program. The program turning down the flight should also make available their pilot to serve as a consultant by other programs that have been requested to take the flight if so desired.

II. Purpose:

- Improve patient and crew safety in the prehospital and inter-facility transport settings.
- Foster consistency among the programs providing air medical transportation in South Carolina
- Provide a unified message to referring agencies when it comes to helicopter safety and weather.

III. Policy

A. Weather Notification

All member programs of SCAAAMS will notify all other member programs in a one hundred (100) nautical mile radius of the origin of the request (scene or inter-facility) if they turn down a flight from a referring source for weather. A call shall be made within 10 minutes of the turndown to each of the program's communications centers to inform them with as much detail as possible on why the transport was turned down (i.e. localized / regionalized weather, wind, fog, etc.). It is recommended that non-member programs should also be called. A program being informed of such weather status may not use this information to independently solicit the flight from the referring agency unless the program informing of the weather status requests them to do so under a mutual aid type of agreement.

B. Weather Information Usage

The member that has been called has should inform their duty pilot(s) and medical crew members of the nature of the weather turndown by the member informing them of such status and use that information in their risk assessment decision in taking the flight. The program informing of weather status should make their pilot who made the weather decision available for consult to the program considering the flight if so desired.

C. Weather Information Consistency

Each member when working with referring sources shall provide a consistent SCAAAMS message which states that member programs share weather information turndowns for safety reasons. It is recognized that each program has different capabilities and can experience different weather conditions from various locations. All programs adhere to safe weather operations and except for these differences weather turndowns will not be used as a marketing approach to referring sources.