

Transporting Patients' Assistive Devices & Personal Items during an Emergency

Presentation to Newmarket's Accessibility Advisory
Committee

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November 21, 2024



Purpose

- Update the Town of Newmarket's Accessibility Advisory Committee on the process of transporting patients' assistive devices and personal items during emergencies
- Provide an overview of Paramedic Services' approach that is feasible and meets community needs

Background

- York Region Paramedic Services drafted a new policy for transporting patients' assistive devices and personal items during emergencies
- Update provided to York Region's Accessibility Advisory Committee (YRAAC) on November 20, 2024

Best Practices: Environmental Scan



Ambulance Storage Options



Ambulance: Interior



Key Information about the Policy

A. Respect for Property and Dignity

- Assistive devices will be safely stored and transported if possible, depending on several factors
- They will be transported in a manner that protects the property and respects the dignity and independence of patients

Key Information about the Policy

(continued)

B. Conditions for Transporting Assistive Devices

- Does not interfere with patient care or result in excessive delay
- Patient has provided permission and instructions on handling the device, where applicable
- Safe storage is possible as determined at the discretion of the paramedic

Key Information about the Policy

(continued)

C. Alternative Arrangements

- If safe storage is not possible, the paramedic will contact York Region's Mobility On-Request to arrange pick-up of the assistive device
- Efforts will be made to deliver assistive devices to patients and/or their emergency contact as promptly as possible

Key Information about the Policy (continued)

D. Handling Personal Items

- Valuable items may be refused (e.g., jewelry, bags)
- Patients may travel with one small personal item max
- Additional personal belongings will not be permitted
- Patients are responsible for finding alternative transport for their personal effects

Conclusion - Next Steps

- Finalize the policy
- Implement the policy and educate paramedics
- Monitor and evaluate the policy's effectiveness

Thank you!

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