

<b>Date:</b>	April 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2020
<b>To:</b>	NH Staff and Physicians
<b>From:</b>	Dr. Patrick Rowe, Medical Lead: Emergency, Trauma and Transfer Services Jordan Oliver, Executive Lead: Emergency, Trauma and Transfer Services Fraser Bell, VP Planning, Quality and Information Management
<b>CC:</b>	Penny Anguish, NI COO; Angela de Smit, NE COO; Ciro Panessa, NW COO; NH Medical Directors; NH EOC
<b>Re:</b>	<b>Transfer Algorithm and Transport Pathways for COVID-19 Pandemic</b>

### **Background:**

With the onset of COVID-19 global pandemic in B.C., a Provincial Patient Transport COVID-19 Emergency Operations Centre has been struck with representation from the regional health authorities, the First Nations Health Authority, BC Women's and Children, rural physicians and BCEHS. This platform has provided collaborative dialogue between health authorities with the opportunity to stay connected provincially, to learn from each other's early concerns, challenges, and risks and to prepare to optimally respond to the expected COVID-19 surge and associated transport logistics.

Provincial transport planning includes a standardized approach to health authority transfer processes in collaboration with BCEHS. Under the direction of the Provincial Patient Transport EOC and NH EOC, the Emergency / Transfer Task Group has developed the attached **NH Transfer Algorithm** as well as the **Transport Pathways for COVID-19** transfers for our 26 acute care facilities in the north.

### **New Clinical Guidance for COVID-19 Transfers:**

Given that patients with COVID-19 may rapidly deteriorate, early movement and timely transport to definitive care is paramount. The provincial and regional recommendation is to facilitate early referral of suspected and confirmed COVID-19 patients in rural and remote communities with a ground travel time greater than 2 hours from a referral hospital with critical care capabilities. The NH Transfer Algorithm and Transport Pathways are based on this recommendation and align with the critical care modeling and response planning underway.

NH Acute Care Sites with a ground transfer time greater than 2 hours:

Northern Interior HSDA	Northwest HSDA	Northeast HSDA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Valemount Health Centre</li> <li>McBride Health Centre</li> <li>Lake District Hospital (Burns Lake)</li> <li>Stuart Lake Hospital (Fort St. James)</li> <li>Mackenzie &amp; District Hospital</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Atlin Nursing Station</li> <li>Stikine Health Centre (Dease Lake)</li> <li>Stewart Health Centre</li> <li>Northern Haida Gwaii Hospital (Masset)</li> <li>Haida Gwaii Hospital (Queen Charlotte City)</li> <li>Houston Health Centre</li> <li>Bulkley Valley Hospital (Smithers)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fort Nelson Hospital</li> <li>Tumbler Ridge Health Centre</li> </ul>

With the goal to facilitate early recognition and timely transportation of COVID-19 patients in our region, the NH Patient Transfer and Flow Office (PTFO) has created a 24/7 command centre that will 'go live' this week to coordinate all transfers and repatriations in collaboration with the BC Patient Transfer Network (PTN).

If transfer is anticipated, call PTN first as to not delay transport. PTN and PTFO will coordinate a care conference with the NH Regional Triage Intensivist as required to discuss critical care management and transfer options.

**NH Patient Transfer and Flow Command Centre: 1-250-645-7896**

For more information, please contact:

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