



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

*Office of Emergency Medical Services and Trauma System
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NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF A POLICY STATEMENT

Title of Statement: Cross-Border Ambulance Reciprocity

Issuing Entity: Department of Health
Office of Emergency Medical Services and Trauma System

Subject Matter: This policy statement provides requirements and limitations for transporting patients across Washington State borders by ground or air ambulance.

Effective Date: November 30, 2003

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**Department of Health
Health Systems Quality Assurance
Office of Emergency Medical Services and Trauma System
Policy/Procedure**

Title:	Cross-Border Ambulance Reciprocity	Number: 05-01
References:		
Contact:	Janet Kastl, Director Jack Cvitanovic, Licensing and Certification Manager	
Effective Date:	November 30, 2003	
Supersedes:		
Approved:		
Assistant Secretary, Department of Health		

Policy Statement:

It is the policy of Washington State's Department of Health, Office of Emergency Medical Services and Trauma System, to foster a seamless system of transporting patients across Washington State borders by ground or air ambulance.

We recognize the emergency medical care standards required by licensing authorities in British Columbia, Idaho, and Oregon are substantially equivalent to Washington's. We look forward to enhanced mutual aid and cross-border cooperation with our neighbors as part of our effective emergency medical services and trauma care system.

Consistent with good patient care, our legislative scheme, longstanding practice, and desire for reciprocity and positive future working relationships, ambulance services and staff licensed by neighboring governmental entities are authorized to provide emergency health services in Washington State under the following requirements and limitations:

1. To the same level of emergency health services which they are authorized to provide in their originating jurisdiction, so long as not inconsistent with Washington State requirements,
2. Under the supervision and control required by the terms of their authorization in their originating jurisdiction, and
3. While transporting patients to medical residential, convalescent, and nursing facilities in Washington State, but not from point to point within Washington State.

This acknowledgement of reciprocity applies to Washington's neighboring states, whether foreign or domestic government entities, including British Columbia, Oregon and Idaho.