



The University of Kansas Hospital

Emergency Department - Transfer Center FAQs

Emergency Department physicians do not accept patients in transfer from outside facilities. At times, an admitting physician may accept patients in transfer to the ED. The following guidelines help manage that process.

Can I accept the patient to the ED?

Yes, with provisions. As a general rule, patients should not be accepted to the ED. This impacts patient throughput and places a burden on the ED physician to manage the patient.

What patients are appropriate to accept in transfer to the ED rather than an inpatient unit?

Some patients are best managed in the ED. Examples include trauma or burn activations. If a patient needs intervention but not admission, then the ED may be an appropriate intake point.

Who is responsible for the transfer patient when they arrive to the ED?

The attending physician service is expected to manage the patient in the ED. The emergency department physician, nurse practitioner or qualified provider is responsible to complete a medical screen. The accepting physician/team is responsible for management and disposition of the patient.

What is expected of the accepting physician to accept the patient to the ED?

If circumstances require the patient to come to the ED, the accepting physician must have a conversation with the ED attending physician to determine appropriateness and plan of care. The accepting physician or designee is expected to respond to the ED for patient management within 30 minutes of patient arrival.

Can an inpatient at the referring facility transfer to our ED?

In extenuating circumstances, an inpatient can transfer to our ED, but it is not generally recommended. Inpatient-to-inpatient transfer is preferred.