



# VCEMS Training Bulletin



Bulletin 042

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The appropriate destination for an EMS patient depends on multiple factors— the scene location, chief complaint, and desired destination to name a few.

In general, patients should be transported to the closest acute care hospital. There are exceptions for specialty care (stroke, STEMI, trauma) but diversion to these facilities must be directed by the base hospital or established VCEMSA policy.

Circumstances may arise that make an alternative destination more appropriate than the receiving center defined in VCEMSA policy. This is allowable. The transporting unit, however, **MUST** be directed to this facility by the appropriate base hospital.

Paramedics who determine that their patient would be best served by transport to an alternative destination should make early base contact and “paint the picture” – describe the circumstances, along with their desired destination, *before the ambulance leaves the scene*. Based on ReddiNet status of the desired destination hospital, scene location, patient condition, and perhaps other extenuating circumstances such as traffic or patient request, the MICN will provide destination orders.