

**The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences**  
Trauma Clinical Practice Management Guideline

**SUBJECT:** Pediatric Trauma Patient Hopscotch Protocol

**AUTHOR:** Kyle J. Kalkwarf, MD; Todd Maxson, MD

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**PURPOSE:** To clarify EMTALA obligations for those instances where two patients are presenting in the same ambulance with different intended destinations.

**POLICY:**

The term “hopscotch” will be used by MEMS ambulance to indicate their intent to drop off one patient at UAMS for evaluation and treatment and then proceed with transporting the second patient to the intended destination. This most often occurs when MEMS is transporting an adult and a child with the intent of transporting the adult patient to UAMS and the pediatric patient to ACH. MEMS will appropriately triage the highest acuity patient to the first hospital.

**CRITERIA:**

- EMTALA obligations are not required when it is the EMS’s intent to continue transport to another facility.
- The patient is considered to have presented to a hospital only if they are within hospital property **and** the patient or an individual on behalf of the patient requests an examination of a medical condition