

**KENORA DISTRICT SERVICES BOARD
POLICY and PROCEDURE**

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TITLE: ESCORTING PATIENTS	SECTION: LAND AMBULANCE
DATE: April 23, 2007	POLICY NO.: KDSB-LAS-VI-03
APPROVED BY: Resolution No. 2001-102	REVISED:

1. POLICY STATEMENT

During transport one paramedic must accompany the patient(s) in the patient compartment, including those instances when a nurse is escorting the patient.

In rare circumstances when a physician, respiratory technologist, nurse and advanced life support equipment are accompanying, and when there is insufficient room for the paramedic to safely accompany the patient, the paramedic may sit in the front. In this circumstance, responsibility for the patient is solely that of the hospital team. The paramedic must monitor the transport and be prepared to provide assistance upon request or when he or she considers it necessary.

It is sometimes beneficial for family or friends to accompany a patient particularly in the case of a child or someone under duress. The final decision as to whether a non-medical escort can accompany a patient will be that of the paramedics. However, a request of this nature should be usually considered as beneficial to patient care.

2. PROCEDURE

2.1 Assigned hospital staff, required as an escort for the patient, will always take precedence over relatives for available seating. Relative(s) accompanying the patient **must be told prior to departure that:**

- a) they may be asked to leave the Ambulance, under rare circumstances, if another patient is assigned to double with the first patient.
- b) they cannot be provided with a return trip due to possible re-assignment.
- c) non-medical escorts must wear a seat belt and must sit in the seat assigned. In some cases the escort may have to sit in the front passenger seat.

2.2 Paramedics must be cognizant of the duress that friends and relatives may be under at the time of transport and communication must take place with due compassion for the situation.