

## Appendix 1: Algorithm for direction of patients to private hospitals.

Patient undergoes assessment by a medical doctor within the community, registered with the Permanent Medical Register of the Malta Medical Council

Does the patient have a high risk situation<sup>1</sup>, is disoriented/confused, is in severe pain or severe distress, or is likely to require time sensitive interventions<sup>2</sup>?

NO

Does the patient fulfil the following criteria?:

- Aged 16 - 60
- ASA of I or II<sup>3</sup>
- Physiologically stable<sup>4</sup>
- Not pregnant
- No other exclusion criteria<sup>5</sup>

NO

Follow Standard procedure for referral to MDH Emergency Department  
Document discussion

YES

Is the patient willing to receive Emergency care within a private hospital?

NO

NO

YES

Call 1400 and inform patient with the selected private hospital

Does the patient confirm that s/he is willing to receive further care within the selected

YES

Inform patient that s/he needs to attend the private hospital within 2 hours

Provide referral ticket

Document discussion

<sup>1</sup>High risk situation refers to a clinical situation which has a high risk of deterioration or exhibit newly altered mental status

<sup>2</sup>Time sensitive management refers to urgent medical intervention for potentially life or limb threatening clinical scenarios such as Acute Coronary syndrome, CVA, airway management, ventilatory support, resuscitation in shocked patient, suspected acute aortic pathology, acute limb ischaemia.

### <sup>3</sup>ASA score

Category	Physical Status
ASA 1	Normal healthy patient
ASA 2	Patient with mild systemic disease
ASA 3	Patient with severe systemic disease that is not a constant threat to life
ASA 4	Patient with severe systemic disease that is a constant threat to life
ASA 5	Moribund patient not expected to survive with or without

<sup>4</sup>**Physiological stability** – for the purpose of the SOP regarding direction of patients to a private hospital, physiological stability shall be defined as:

1. Respiratory rate 12 bpm – 20 bpm
2. Pulse – 51 bpm – 90 bpm
3. Systolic BP – 100 mmHG – 210 mmHg
4. Saturation of  $\geq 96\%$  on with no Oxygen therapy
5. Alert with no recent onset neurological deficits, GCS 15
6. Temperature of  $> 36^{\circ}\text{C}$  -  $< 38^{\circ}\text{C}$

<sup>5</sup>**Exclusion criteria** – Emergency Care within a private hospital shall not be considered for:

- Patients potentially having time sensitive diagnoses.
- Patients with abnormal parameters as
- Patients with primary Gynae, ENT and Ophthalmic complaints
- Patients with conditions that can lead to loss of limbs, including ulcers
- Patients whose pain is not controlled by oral analgesia
- Patients presenting with complications of procedures/interventions carried out at MDH
- Patients presenting to PHC with the same condition within 30 days of discharge from MDH
- Patients unable to give consent.
- Patients who require the use of a stretcher for transport/transfer
- Police cases – including domestic violence and sexual assault
- Patients presenting with psychiatric complaints
- Patients being assessed for poisoning
- Patient with potential infections of high consequences or who require isolation.