

	<b>BEDFORD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF FIRE &amp; RESCUE</b> <b>Standard Operating Guideline</b>	
	<b>Discipline: Administration</b>	<b>DATE:</b> December 12, 2022
	<b>Reference Number:</b> FR-20	
	<b>APPROVED BY:</b> Chief Janet Blankenship	
	<b>SUBJECT: Dementia/Violent patient Transport to Bedford Memorial Hospital</b>	

**Purpose:**

To develop a set of procedures for transporting patients exhibiting signs of dementia or combativeness to Bedford Memorial Hospital, if it is the closest facility, for emergent chemical restraints and/or medical clearance/stabilization before transfer to a more appropriate facility.

**Scope:**

This guideline applies to all EMS Agencies responding to incidents in Bedford County.

**Procedure/Requirements:**

The Bedford County Sheriff’s Office and the Town of Bedford PD have had incidences of long-term care facilities getting calls for patients, who are suffering from dementia and become non-compliant or violent with staff, who require transport to the hospital. It is not safe nor is it ethical to handcuff an elderly patient suffering from dementia and transport them in a police car without any protection from harming themselves. If Bedford Memorial Hospital is the closest facility for transportation, then the patient should be transported to that facility.

Adult Protective Services (APS) may also call for a person or case they are working and ask for help with transport of a patient that is not able to properly care for themselves and may be cognitively impaired. They have been dealing with these patients and should be listened to, even if the patient seems to be lucid at the time. EMS providers are expected to work cooperatively and collaboratively with representatives from other service agencies to ensure the patient is receiving appropriate and timely care.

Bedford County Fire-Rescue and any EMS agencies operating in Bedford County may be called upon by the Sheriff’s Office, Town PD or APS to assist with transporting these patients to Bedford Memorial Hospital (if closest facility) for chemical restraints or medical clearance/stabilization before being transferred to a more appropriate facility. If an appropriate facility is closer than BMH then that patient should be transported to the closest appropriate facility.

If you are called to assist with transporting a dementia patient for this purpose, you are to follow the following guidelines.

1. Call BMH and ask to speak to the “Medical Provider.”
2. Explain the situation and let them know you are coming to them per local protocol for dementia patients exhibiting violent tendencies.
3. Transport gently and ask the officer to accompany you if you feel it is warranted.

This SOG does not override the BREMS behavioral protocol, but utilized to transport patients within a reasonable distance for safety and potential medical evaluation.

Contact County-10 or a member of BCoFR Executive Staff if additional guidance is required.