

EMS inter-facility transfers in Calgary and Edmonton

AHS has signed contracts with two successful proponents that will be contracted to provide scheduled, low-acuity interfacility patient transfers in the Calgary and Edmonton Zones.

These additional resources will help AHS free up ambulances and paramedics to focus on emergency medical responses in Alberta's two largest cities. It is important to emphasize that these resources will not be focused on providing emergency transport in either Calgary or Edmonton. They will provide low-acuity non-urgent patient transfer services.

To support understanding of the various types of transports that are completed by AHS EMS, and by these and other contractors, please see the list of transport type and provider, below.

Type of Transport	Details	Provider
Interfacility Patient Transfers: <i>Critical</i>	A critical-clinical condition requiring an unscheduled emergent response and transport, typically to a higher level of care.	AHS EMS and existing contracted EMS providers outside of Calgary and Edmonton
Interfacility Patient Transfers: <i>Potentially life-threatening</i>	A potentially life-threatening clinical condition requiring an unscheduled urgent response for higher or specialized care at another facility.	AHS EMS and existing contracted EMS providers outside of Calgary and Edmonton
Interfacility Patient Transfers: <i>Scheduled, low acuity</i>	Scheduled, low acuity interfacility transfer services (IFT) for non-urgent patients requiring transport between hospitals, between hospitals and care centres and from hospital or care centres to home in Calgary, Edmonton and surrounding areas.	New dedicated IFT contract services providers: Associated Ambulance Services Guardian Ambulance Ltd.
Advanced Life Support (ALS)	ALS Units are ambulances staffed with at least one Advanced Care Paramedic (ACP).	AHS EMS and existing contracted EMS providers outside of Calgary and Edmonton
Basic Life Support (BLS)	BLS Units are staffed with at least one Primary Care Paramedic, and may include Emergency Medical Responders (EMR), with a standard level of equipment to provide essential medical care for patients	AHS EMS and existing contracted EMS providers outside of Calgary and Edmonton

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Paramedic Response Unity (PRU)	A single member practitioner, typically in an SUV, who provides rapid response capabilities.	AHS EMS and existing contracted EMS providers outside of Calgary and Edmonton
Mobile Integrated Health (Community Paramedics)	ACPs with additional training and equipment who provide complex care to patients in order to keep patients out of the hospital.	AHS EMS
Non-Clinical Transport (NCT) Services	Arranged by the facility and is not part of EMS. Health care professionals in consultation with the patient (adult or pediatric), and/or alternate decision-maker, and/or designated family/support person, and health care team, must determine if the patient meets the non-clinical transportation criteria	All Healthcare facility teams (AHS, Covenant, Long-term Care)
Air Ambulance	Providing fixed-wing air transport services for emergencies and Scheduled Inter-Facility Transfers	AHS EMS Air Ambulance STARS / HALO / HERO (contracted)