

Skilled Nursing Facility and Adult Family Care Home Guidance When Requesting Emergency Medical Services Response

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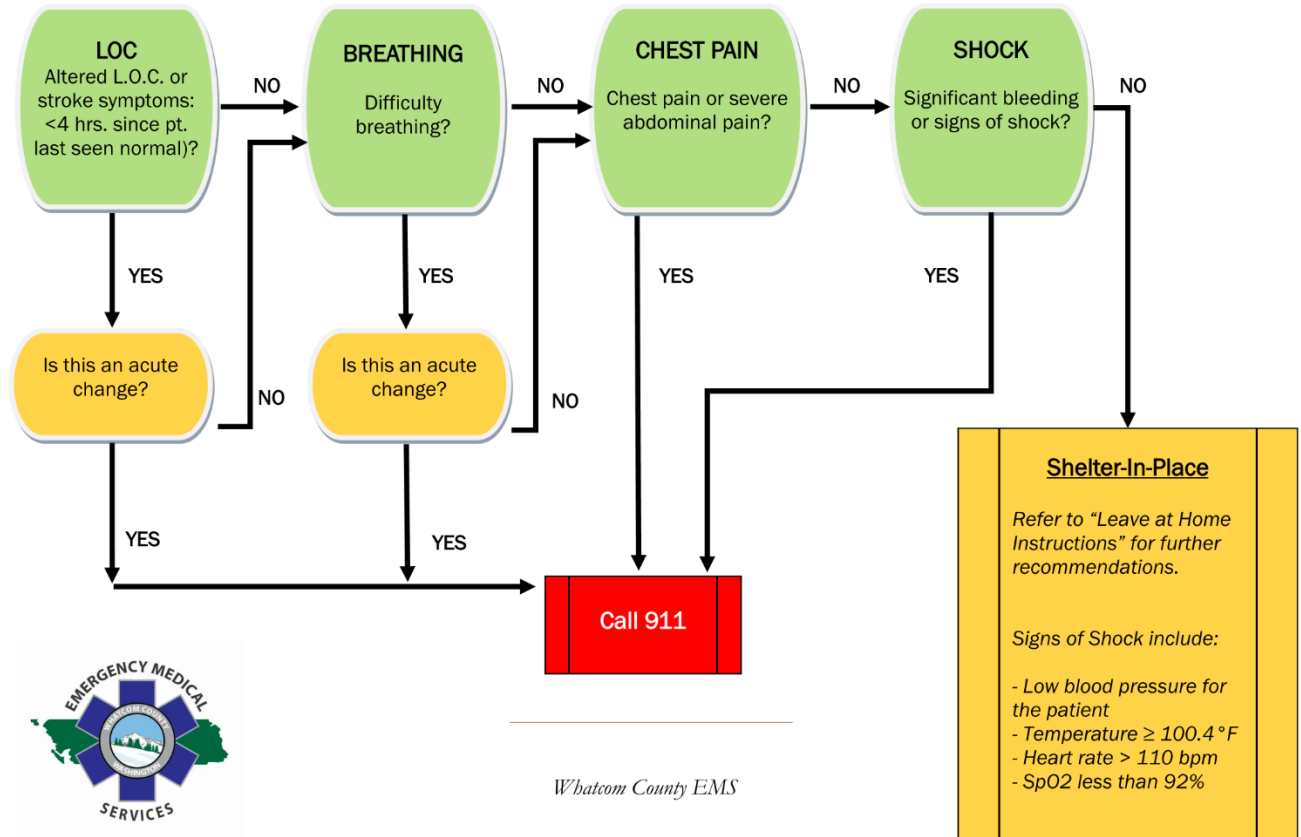
As the COVID19 continues to stress hospital and Emergency Medical Systems, Whatcom County Emergency Medical Services (WCEMS) is issuing guidance to short- and long-term care facilities about the EMS response to your facility.

1. Emergency Medical Services (911) will always respond to your facility if there is an emergency. When a provider calls 911, they will be asked a series of questions to determine if this is a potential flu/fever call.
2. When Paramedics and Emergency Medical Technician arrive at the patient bedside, they will provide an assessment to determine if there is an emergent need for the patient to be transported to the Emergency Department. This determination will be made by a discussion between the hospital Medical Control Physician and the Paramedic/Emergency Medical Technician.
3. Generally, our assessment protocol includes parameters for EMS to determine that the patient may have a flu-like illness, without an immediate life-threatening condition. In these circumstances off-site physician orders and in-house nursing protocols may be overridden by the Emergency Department Medical Control Physician or the Whatcom County Medical Program Director to determine that transport is not indicated.

WCEMS and the Emergency Department are working hard to limit COVID19 exposures for everyone. Skilled Nursing Facilities and other healthcare short/team facilities will need to consider how to take care of respiratory (flu-like) patients in those facilities. WCEMS has provided an algorithm that guides Skilled Nursing Facilities and other short-long term Care Facilities to “Make the Right Call” when considered the need for 911/EMS interventions.

Make the Right Call

911 Activation Guidelines (COVID-19 Specific)



Whatcom County EMS

Whatcom County EMS appreciates your flexibility as we all work through this national healthcare emergency. As a team, we can overcome these challenges.

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