New strategies are emerging as guides for limiting HEMS utilization. The strategy detailed here is based upon ACEP’s Appropriate Utilization of Air Medical Transport in the Out-of-Hospital Setting.

Figure 1

Does the patient require a time-critical intervention?

NO

Does the patient need a level of care unavailable by GEMS?

NO

Is the patient less than 45 miles from the hospital?

YES

Is the patient in a location where GEMS transport would be greatly delayed?

NO

Consider HEMS

NO

NO

YES

YES

YES

Transport by GEMS

Figure 2

Does the patient require a time-critical intervention

NO

Transport by GEMS

YES

What is the interventional window for the condition in question (minutes)?

When did the patient’s condition start?

What is the time difference between symptom onset and current time?

Is the patient still within the interventional window?

NO

NO

NO

YES

Can GEMS deliver the patient to definitive care within the interventional window?

YES

YES

NO

NO

Can HEMS deliver the patient to definitive care within the interventional window?

YES

Transport by HEMS if available

Transport by GEMS

Transport by GEMS

Transport by GEMS