

# York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee (YRAAC)

## Presentation Backgrounder

- Date:** November 20, 2024
- Title:** Transporting Patients' Assistive Devices Policy Presentation
- Purpose:** To update York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee (YRAAC) on the draft policy regarding the transportation of patients' assistive devices by paramedics during emergencies.
- The ask:** We will be advising YRAAC on the most feasible approach based on industry standards and best practices.

### Introduction and Purpose

- The Transporting Patients' Assistive Devices Policy was created in response to a request from the YRAAC to outline procedures for paramedics when transporting patients who have assistive devices, particularly wheelchairs and other large devices. This policy reflects our commitment to accessibility and providing timely and safe transportation for all patients
- This policy is a response to community need and aligns with our goals to enhance service delivery

### Details

- **Objectives:**
  - Provide safe and timely transportation of patients with assistive devices
  - Provide clear guidelines for paramedics on handling assistive devices during emergencies
  - Coordinate with Mobility On-Request when safe storage of devices on ambulances is not possible
- **Parameters:**
  - The policy applies to all paramedic services within York Region
  - Safe storage of assistive devices on ambulances is at the discretion of the paramedics.
  - If safe storage is not possible, Mobility On-Request will be contacted to arrange transportation of the devices
- **Proposed start date:**

- The policy is proposed to take effect upon its approval and finalization after updating the YRAAC

## Scope of Consultation

- **What is YRAAC being asked to provide input on?**
  - Do you see any further changes with the proposed policy?
  - Are there other items we need to consider?
- **What are the non-negotiables? (out of scope for consultation)**
  - The primary objective of providing timely and safe transportation of patients to hospital cannot be compromised by delays dealing with assistive devices
  - Paramedics have the final decision in determining if assistive devices can be safely stored and transported

## Presenter

Natalie Kedzierski, Deputy Chief, Paramedic Services, Community and Health Services

# Transporting Patients' Assistive Devices & Personal Items Policy

Presentation to the York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee

Natalie Kedzierski, Deputy Chief, Paramedic Services,  
Community and Health Services

November 20, 2024



# Purpose

- Update the York Region Accessibility Advisory Committee (YRAAC) on the draft new policy for transporting patients' assistive devices during emergencies
- Provide an overview of Paramedic Services' approach that is feasible and meets community needs

# Consultation Questions to Consider

1. Do you see any further changes with the proposed policy?
2. Are there other items we need to consider?



# Best Practices: Environmental Scan





# Ambulance Storage Options



# Ambulance: Interior



# Key Information about the Policy

## **A. Respect for Property and Dignity**

- Assistive devices will be safely stored and transported if possible, depending on several factors
- They will be transported in a manner that protects the property and respects the dignity and independence of patients

# Key Information about the Policy (continued)

## **B. Conditions for Transporting Assistive Devices**

- Does not interfere with patient care or result in excessive delay
- Patient has provided permission and instructions on handling the device, where applicable
- Safe storage is possible as determined at the discretion of the paramedic

# Key Information about the Policy (continued)

## **C. Alternative Arrangements**

- If safe storage is not possible, the paramedic will contact York Region's Mobility On-Request to arrange pick-up of the assistive device
- Efforts will be made to deliver assistive devices to patients and/or their emergency contact as promptly as possible

# Key Information about the Policy (continued)

## **D. Handling Personal Items**

- Valuable items may be refused (e.g., jewelry, bags)
- Patients may travel with one small personal item max
- Additional personal belongings will not be permitted
- Patients are responsible for finding alternative transport for their personal effects

# Conclusion - Next Steps

- Finalize the policy
- Implement the policy and educate paramedics
- Monitor and evaluate the policy's effectiveness

**Do you see any further changes with the proposed policy?**

**Consultation Question 1 of 2**



**Are there other items we need to consider?**

**Consultation Question 2 of 2**

# Thank you!

Natalie Kedzierski, Deputy Chief, Paramedic Services

