TRANSPORTATION OF CRITICALLY ILL PATIENTS

Transporting patients is risky. It requires good communication, planning and appropriate staffing.

Any patient who requires transportation must be effectively stabilized before departure.

As a general principle, patients should be transported only if they are going to a facility that can provide a higher level of care.

Planning and preparation include consideration of the following:

- Type of transport (car, lorry, boat, etc.)
- Personnel to accompany the patient
- Equipment and supplies required en route for routine and emergency treatment
- Potential complications
- Monitoring and final packaging of the patient

Effective communication is essential with:

- The receiving centre
- The transport service
- Escorting personnel
- The patient and relatives
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Effective stabilization necessitates:

- Prompt initial resuscitation
- Control of hemorrhage and maintenance of the circulation
- Immobilization of fractures
- Analgesia

Remember, if the patient deteriorates...

- Re-evaluate the patient by using the primary survey
- Check and treat life-threatening conditions
- Make a careful assessment focusing on the affected system

Be prepared: if anything can go wrong, it will – and at the worst possible time!