



Delivering the right care, at the right time, in the right place

PATIENT TRANSPORT SERVICE IN MERSEYSIDE

From 1 July 2016 the North West Ambulance Service NHS Trust (NWAS) will be managing the Patient Transport Service in Merseyside.

Outlined in this document is all the relevant information about the service we provide and how to book. It also includes key contacts and information on how to make complaints.

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WHO WE ARE

North West Ambulance Service undertakes approximately 1.2 million non-emergency journeys every year. We provide Patient Transport Services in Merseyside, Lancashire, Greater Manchester and Cumbria and we have four Contact and Control centres in Preston, Carlisle, Oldham and Chester.

We employ approximately 800 Staff, 150 call takers, controllers and planners, have around 320 Volunteer car drivers and operate over 320 vehicles.

To support our delivery of PTS, we also operate a third party framework which utilises private ambulances and taxis companies who have to comply with our strict operating guidelines and governance to ensure the safe transportation of all out patients at all times.

THE CONTRACT

The new contract for Merseyside will come into force on 1 July 2016 and will run for five years. It will cover Merseyside CCG registered patients only and will provide eligible patients with transport to and from any NHS treatment centre for NHS funded treatment.

Under the contract, we will deliver three service specifications:

- Enhanced Priority Service - renal dialysis and cancer
- Planned - advanced bookings & appointments
- Unplanned - 'on the day'

The key performance indicators (KPIs) have been revised and simplified to future proof the service with seven day operating and service reconfiguration.

OPERATING HOURS:

Enhanced Priority Service (EPS) Times determined by the centres	6:30am to 1am the following day (including Bank Holidays)
Planned Specification Earliest drop off times and latest collections times:	Monday to Friday 8am to 6pm (excluding Bank Holidays)
Unplanned Specification 'on the day' Earliest drop off times and latest collections times:	Monday to Friday; 8am to 8pm Additional capacity vehicles will operate: Monday to Friday 7pm to 10pm; and Saturday, Sunday & Bank Holidays; 10am to 7pm

Enhanced Priority Service - renal dialysis and cancer

Provision	Description
Call Answering	75% of calls to be answered within 20 seconds
Travel Time	85% of patients to travel on the vehicle for no longer than 60 minutes
Arrival	90% of patients to arrive within 45 minutes prior to their scheduled appointment time
Collection	85% of patients to be collected within 60 minutes of scheduled collection time or Patient Readiness Notification 90% of patients to be collected within 90 minutes of scheduled collection time or Patient Readiness Notification Patient Readiness Notification - 90 minutes notice of collection must be given to NWAS

Planned Service - advance bookings & appointments

Provision	Description
Call Answering	75% of calls to be answered within 20 seconds
Travel Time	80% of patients to travel on the vehicle for no longer than 60 minutes
Arrival	90% of patients to arrive within 60 minutes prior to their appointment time and no later than their appointment time
Collection	80% of patients to be collected within 60 minutes of scheduled collection time or Patient Readiness Notification 90% of patients to be collected within 90 minutes of scheduled collection time or Patient Readiness Notification Patient Readiness Notification - 90 minutes notice of collection must be given to NWAS

Unplanned Service – ‘on the day’

Provision	Description
Call Answering	75% of calls to be answered within 20 seconds
Travel Time	80% of patients to travel on the vehicle for no longer than 60 minutes
Arrival	No arrival standard – contract provides for 4 hour notice period for on the day outpatient bookings
Collection	<p>Less than 60 minutes wait - 80% of journeys where the patient is picked up no later than 60 minutes after booked collection time</p> <p>On the day pick up within 90 minutes - 90% of on the day bookings where the patient is picked up within 90 minutes of the booking's acceptance</p>

Our Operating Model



Patients outside Merseyside

North West Ambulance Service is the PTS provider for:

- Cumbria
- Greater Manchester
- Lancashire

West Midlands Ambulance Service (WMAS) is the PTS provider for:

- Cheshire, Warrington & Wirral
- WMAS PTS Control can be contacted on **0345 425 0051**.

For patients registered outside of the North West - the CCG with which the patient is registered is responsible for the patient's PTS.

We work closely with other providers to ensure a seamless patient journey.

HOW TO MAKE A BOOKING

You can make a booking on behalf of the patient by calling **0800 0323 240**.

For the patients receiving renal dialysis or cancer treatment, please call **0800 028 9224**.

If the patient requires transport for any subsequent follow up appointments, it is normally the clinic that will arrange this.

Only patients who have a **medical need for transport** and meet the **eligibility criteria** will be able to access the service. For example patients whose mobility or expected side effects from treatment mean they are unable to attend their hospital appointment. Exemptions apply for some medical conditions.

Before booking please:

- Avoid raising the patient's expectations – not everyone is eligible for PTS
- Determine whether the patient has a medical or clinical need for transport
- Prior to making a booking, make sure you have the patient's details to hand
- Consider if the patient can use alternative transport i.e. family member or taxi
- Consider if the patient needs patient transport both to and from their appointment or if they can access an alternative for one part of the journey
- Inform the patient when the transport has been booked and the estimated waiting times

To make the booking, you will need the following information:

- Patient's full name, home address, date of birth and contact phone number
- NHS number
- GP practice details
- A knowledge of the patient's level of mobility
- Date and time of the appointment
- Hospital and clinic the patient is attending
- Type of appointment, e.g. outpatient
- If an escort is required*
- Any specific needs (e.g. language barrier, hard of hearing, infectious disease, mental illness, walking frame)

*Only available if there is a specific medical need

Unplanned Journeys (On the day)

The booking cut off time for unplanned activity is 4 hours prior to the end of Service Hours for transport journeys the same day with the exception of discharges and transfers where the Booking

Cut off time is 1 hour prior to the end of service hours.

Bookings can be requested up to 90 minutes prior to the collection / ready time and we will then have a further 60 minutes to collect the patient.

Planned Journeys (Advance requests)

The booking cut off time for planned activity is 4pm on the day prior to travel for Merseyside patients. Bookings received after this time will be counted as unplanned activity.

Enhanced Priority Journeys

The booking cut off time for EPS journeys is 4pm on the day prior to travel. Bookings received after this time will be counted as unplanned activity

Booking Cap

An Unplanned journey booking cap will be applied based on a percentage of overall patient movements however this is not applicable to enhanced priority patients.

ONLINE BOOKINGS

We operate a regional booking system for our Patient Transport function. The system allows us to deliver a more standardised and efficient service to our users and patients. Our centralised web booking system is available 24/7 and is a preferred method of booking for Healthcare Professionals.

The system provides a number of benefits to users. Not only can it be used to create a booking for a patient but also to enquire upon existing bookings, book patients 'ready' or cancel a booking if necessary.

If you do not have access to an on-line booking system but wish to make an enquiry about setting up this facility, please contact us on: Pts.onlinereferrals@nwas.nhs.uk. We can get you set up with full training in a matter of minutes.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Where do I call to make a general enquiry?

You can call the booking line number – **0800 0323 240** to make a general enquiry.

Who can travel with the patient?

If the patient needs to be accompanied on their journey due to a specific **medical** need which cannot be provided by NWS **PTS staff**, for example if the patient has physical or mental incapacity, needs a translator or the patient is under the age of 16, this must be requested at the point of booking.

If the patient has an appointment out of the area, who takes the booking?

If the patient is registered with a GP within a Clinical Commissioning Group in Lancashire, Greater Manchester, Merseyside or Cumbria, but has an appointment at an NHS hospital or clinic outside of these counties, **NWS PTS will undertake the journey in line with the operating hours for that specific contract area**. The booking should be made as per above.

Are bookings made using the 24/7 online system before 3pm on a weekend for Monday travel classed as Planned journeys?

The Planned Service for patients registered in Merseyside operates between 8am and 8pm Monday to Friday and the cut off time for planned journeys is 4pm the day before the day of travel. Bookings made after the cut off time for the next day will be classed as an Unplanned booking during the hours stated.

Planned bookings cannot be made for weekends and Bank Holidays

What are the unplanned specifications for the neighbouring counties provide for services (on the day)?

Cheshire, Warrington and Wirral & Cumbria is Monday to Friday; 8am to 6pm

Lancashire is Monday to Friday; 8am to 8pm, Saturday & Sunday; 10am to 6pm including Bank Holidays

Greater Manchester is Monday to Friday; 8am to 11pm, Saturday & Sunday; 8am to 6pm and Bank Holidays from 8am to 11pm

When do the additional 'bespoke' vehicles operate?

Each of the four Mersey Trusts will have Additional Capacity Vehicles dedicated to them which will be available between 7pm and 10pm on Monday to Friday and between 10am and 7pm weekends and Bank Holidays to take account for unplanned discharges. These vehicles are funded by Merseyside CCGs under the new contract and Trusts therefore no longer need to budget separately unless individual requirements go above and beyond these hours of service.

If things go wrong.

If you have any concerns about transport arrangements please contact 0800 0323 240.

If your concern is not resolved, please refer to the current escalation plan process already in place for your **Trust**.

If you would like to share any compliments, comments or suggestions about the service we are providing, or you wish to make a complaint, you can contact us by telephoning our Patient Experience Team on 0345 112 6500, emailing patient.experience@nwas.nhs.uk or write to us: Patient Experience Team, North West Ambulance Service NHS Trust, 449-451 Garstang Road, Broughton, Preston, PR3 5LN. Alternatively contact us via our website: www.nwas.nhs.uk/talking-to-us