EARLY TRANSPORT DECISIONS
BLS
ALWAYS USE BODY SUBSTANCE ISOLATION PRECAUTIONS

INDICATION
- Emergent patient with life or limb threatening conditions including:
  - Severe respiratory distress or respiratory arrest
  - Airway compromise or obstruction
  - Significant neurological decline from baseline evaluation
  - Anticipated or current shock
  - Uncontrolled bleeding
  - Open chest or abdomen
  - Tension pneumothorax
  - Pericardial tamponade
  - Prolapsed cord, impending breech delivery, abnormal presenting part
  - Multi-system trauma
  - Severe burns - Second or third degree burns (contact with caustic material, electricity or fire) involving 20% or more of body surface area (BSA) for adults or 10% BSA for pediatric patients or if associated with respiratory involvement
  - Isolated head injury with unconsciousness/posturing

PROCEDURE
- BLS RMC
- Verify estimated time of arrival of ALS unit, or consider helicopter transport
- Update responding ALS unit on need for early transport to the closest, appropriate facility.
- If ALS arrival time is longer than time to transport to the closest facility, begin transport and consider rendezvous with ALS unit en route if appropriate.
- If transport time to the closest facility is > 10 minutes and ALS transport or rendezvous is not immediately available, begin transport and consider helicopter rendezvous if helicopter transport would result in reduced transport time to an emergency facility.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATION
- If patient is in extremis and transport unit is not available, transport in available vehicle.

DOCUMENTATION- ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS
- Projected ETA of ALS unit if BLS transport undertaken
- Detailed description of life or limb threatening conditions
- Helicopter request and ETA

RELATED POLICIES/ PROCEDURES
- Destination Guidelines GPC 4