March 26, 2020

MEMORANDUM

TO: Pierce County Skilled Nursing, Long-Term, Adult-Home, etc Facilities

FROM: Clark M. Waffle, M.D., M.P.D. CWFaffle.MD

RE: Make the Right Call to EMS during the COVID-19 Pandemic

During this time of the COVID-19 Pandemic we all must utilize all available medical resources wisely. To assist in this effort the algorithm below should help you in deciding when to call 911 and when to call a private ambulance to transport your patients. If an MHS or CHI Drop Team is available to you, follow their activation protocol. They will assist you in determining the mode and destination for your patient’s transport. If 911 is called the EMS personnel will use current protocols to determine if the patient needs to be transported or may be left at your facility. If transported the EMS personnel will determine the destination according to current protocols. Do not call 911 to have a patient transported for a COVID-19 test.

Make the Right Call
Transportation Decision Guidelines

** Acute: Abrupt onset, in reference to a disease. An illness that is of short duration, rapidly progressive, and in need of emergency care.

# Consult with Physician on need for transport vs. stay and treat and/or what is timeframe before patient needs to be seen at the ER. Can this patient wait for transport other than 911 or do they need to be seen right away?