

as the *Blades* TURN

Scottsbluff, NE | 24-hour Emergency Dispatch 1-800-252-2215 | AirLink@rwhs.org

Micki Votruba, RN, BSN, CFRN

You probably noticed that, as a team, we came up with a catchy new title for our Air Link newsletter. We hope you like it!

Another trip around the sun...

It is hard to believe that 2024 is all buttoned up! Hopefully you and yours enjoyed a fantastic holiday season and are looking forward to all the possibilities that a new year holds!

Thank you to everyone who attended our annual Education Conference. Once again, it was a fantastic day filled with hands-on learning and networking with new and old friends. New to the conference this year was a chili cook-off. Thank you to the services who participated and congratulations to the winners!

- 1st place - Gordon
- 2nd place - Broadwater
- 3rd place - Scottsbluff
- 4th place - Mitchell

They each walked away with a cash prize thanks, in part, to our generous sponsor: Life First Learning (Robby Rhembrandt).



Pictured above are the chili cook-off winners

As is usually the case, we stayed busy getting services up to date on LZ training most of the fall. If your service is in need of a refresher, please do not hesitate to reach out. We are also always happy to tailor any training that you feel could benefit your service.



Packets, Packets, Packets! WHAT we need and WHY we need it

It is often a point of confusion regarding why the flight team needs an entire patient packet on top of the one that is sent for the receiving facility. Having a complete patient packet specifically for us is an absolute necessity. Although we are with the patient for just a short time, having all the information helps us make well-informed clinical decisions when the need arises and ensures that a level of continuity is maintained when patients arrive at their destination.

Attached you will find our transfer packet (need more? We have LOTS, so just give us a shout and we will get more to you!). It outlines everything that we need for transfer – two packets that are identical and we are all set! We leave one with the receiving team and we review ours in flight and then retain it in order to complete our documentation.

We know that transfers can be stressful and it takes many hands to make the process run smoothly. We hope that having the information we need outlined on the packet envelope will make it easier for you to make sure we have what we need to provide excellent patient care.

I have also had services ask about key points we need in an Emergency Medical Services (EMS)/scene type of transfer. There obviously will not be a patient chart to send along, so the only information we will get is from the crew that is on scene.

A good EMS report is clear and concise and covers a lot of information while being done quickly and efficiently.

Begin with **name** and date of birth (**DOB**), if possible.

Patient Assessment: Standard report including patient’s condition, assessment findings, and interventions that have been done by your service prior to our arrival.

Scene Assessment: What time did the incident occur? What events led to it (car passed into oncoming lane, patient fell off horse, etc.)? How long did it take EMS to arrive? How long did extrication take? Was safety gear used (seatbelt, helmet, etc.)?

If we are not at the scene of the accident (for example, we tier with you at a different location), it is helpful for you to provide a description of the scene. How did the vehicles look? Was the steering wheel bent, or was the windshield starred? Help us “see” the scene as this often helps us anticipate patient injuries.

Providing a good patient report is crucial to ensure that our patients receive the very best care during all parts of their stay. Do not ever hesitate to ask for feedback when you give the report to someone. That is how we learn and improve!

Thank you for trusting us to provide exceptional care to the patients with whom you have already poured your blood, sweat, and tears. It takes all of us in this rural area to make sure that our family, friends, and neighbors are well cared for.



Air Link Transfer Packet

Thank you for choosing us to care for your patient in need of air medical transport. Please help us provide excellent care by providing us with the necessary information below.



Transferring FROM _____ Transferring TO (include room #, if possible) _____

Referring Provider _____ Receiving Provider _____

Primary Nurse _____

Family Contact _____ Family Member Phone Number _____

Patient Info

Name: _____

Date of birth: _____

Vital sign trends: _____

Treatment History

Labs

Radiology reports (X-ray, CT, MRI)

Disc of images

Medication list

EKG (old and new)

Medications in progress for transport: _____

Legal - we have to have these!

Face sheet - two copies

EMTALA form

Physician/Qualified Personnel Medical Necessity Statement

Pertinent Medical History

Past medical history

Discharge summary

Allergies

DNR status

Additional Notes: