

Concealed Weapons Policy

Effective January 1st 2014, Illinois citizens can obtain a permit to legally carry a concealed weapon. The purpose of this policy is to outline common expected procedures for intervening with patients and/or their families who under the law may be carrying a concealed deadly weapon.

The intent is to reduce the potential risk of injury to emergency responders, healthcare personnel and the public. This policy aims to mutually respect the rights of citizens who lawfully carry a concealed weapon as well as to provide safety for emergency responders and healthcare providers.

This policy pertains to all weapons, including, but not limited to firearms, hunting knives, and electronic weapons.

1. No weapon will ever be transported unsecured inside the ambulance whether belonging to the patient or family member. The only exception to this rule will be for on duty law enforcement personnel.
2. **Assume all weapons are loaded. Never attempt to unload a firearm, or engage the safety.**
3. Upon arrival, EMS personnel should directly ask the patient, “Do you have any weapons or needles that could poke or harm me?” prior to performing a physical assessment. If patient is unable to answer, proceed with caution.
4. If EMS personnel are threatened or feel threatened by a patient, family member or bystanders, even if a weapon is not displayed, personnel should move to a safe location, notify law enforcement, and wait for the scene to be secured until returning to the scene.
5. If a patient refuses to remove or allow removal of the weapon, that patient is considered to be refusing medical care and the scene now unsafe. EMS personnel should leave and wait for Law Enforcement to secure the scene.
6. Optimally, a patient with a concealed weapon away from their residence should have it taken control of by local law enforcement. The goal is for the EMS provider to minimally handle any weapon
7. If patient has a weapon, and is able, ask them to lock up their weapon at home or in the trunk of their vehicle.
8. The weapon may be removed by properly trained EMS personnel, tagged with patients name and secured in a lockbox and placed in an exterior compartment of the ambulance.
9. If weapon is located while transporting a patient, the ambulance should be stopped, weapon tagged with patient’s name, secured in lockbox, and placed in an exterior compartment of the ambulance.
10. If a weapon is found in a holster, the weapon should remain in the holster while it is secured. If you cannot remove the holster from the patient, cut away any restraining belts or clothes and secure the holstered weapon.
11. Weapons **will not** be taken via helicopter, if a patient is to be transported by helicopter from the scene, make sure their weapon is secured by a Law Enforcement official.
12. When a weapon is encountered on a call, the patient care report should include documentation that a weapon was located, type of weapon, how it was recovered, where it was located, what the disposition was, and any actions or comments made to or by the patient.

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Transfer of Weapon:

1. Each hospital will have its own procedure when it comes to dealing with secured weapons that arrive by EMS. If you are unsure of the receiving hospital's policy, please inquire with their staff on your arrival.
2. When transporting a patient to St. Francis notify Medcom that security will need to meet you to take control of the patient's personal property.
3. Cased weapons will be turned over to St. Francis security staff and locked in their designated safe location. Your safety case will then be returned to you by the security officer.
4. A "Transfer of Personal Property" form must be completed and signed by all parties.
 - *One copy left with hospital, one copy left with patient, and original left with the patient's PCR.*