

Maine EMS Veteran Transport Decision Matrix

Togus VA Medical Center

ALGORITHM:

1. Patient Choice & Eligibility

Patient must verbalize they are a veteran and eligible for VA care and desire to be cared for at Togus VA medical Center.

2. Togus VA Capability

Togus VA medical center has some limitations to the care they can provide. A patient should not be transported to Togus VA in the event the patient has STEMI, trauma, Ob/gyn emergency, or if they are a dialysis-dependent patient. Please call Togus VA prior to departure to establish if Togus VA is the most appropriate destination.

Decision Points

- Confirm veteran status before considering Togus VA destination
 - Call Togus VA to determine if Togus VA is the most appropriate destination
 - Exclusion criteria include STEMI, trauma, OB/GYN emergencies, and dialysis dependence
 - Stable veterans without exclusion conditions may be transported safely to Togus VA
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Key Guidance

- Maine EMS field units should contact the receiving facility before departure, specifying veteran eligibility, patient complaint/condition, and discuss whether the patient meets exclusion criteria.
- MaineGeneral provides 24/7 emergency coverage for cardiac, trauma, OB/GYN, and dialysis patients.
- Togus VA provides emergency evaluation and stabilization but lacks hemodialysis capacity for emergent care.

- These guidelines ensure proper destination selection under Maine EMS's 2025 prehospital protocols to optimize outcomes and regulatory compliance.
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Ideal patient candidates for transport to Togus VA

- Psychiatric/Mental/behavioral health conditions/Suicidal ideation
- Substance use disorder (detox)
- General Illness (nausea, vomiting, general weakness, chronic or acute non- or non-recent traumatic pain, wound infection, ear and toothache, STD)
- Breathing problems related to chronic conditions
- Eye problems or injury (non-penetrating)
- GI or GU problems (non-hemorrhagic)
- Medical device complaint/malfunction