

Sullivan County Department of Public Health

<p><u>Title:</u> Transportation Assistance Levels (TALs)</p> <p><u>Number:</u> DP-12</p> <p><u>Page Number:</u> 1 of 2</p>	<p>Original Approval: 9/16</p> <p>Reviewed/ revised: 3/24</p>
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Statement/ Purpose:

To implement the required statewide Transportation Assistance Levels for home care patients, in order to ensure that appropriate transportation resources are deployed during a planned evacuation.

Authority:

DAL: DHCBS 16-02 Transportation Assistance Level (TAL) Classification Implementation for Home Care and Hospice Providers.

Application:

All SCDPH Certified Home Health Agency clinicians

Terminology:

Responsible Party:

Public Health Director

Cross-Reference:

Admission to CHHA

Procedure:

1. During initial assessment of all home care patients, the admitting provider will assess the patient to identify their transportation assistance level, categorized into one of the three mobility levels:
 - a. Non-ambulatory (TAL-1)- those who require transport by stretcher. For emergency movement down stairs, they may be transferred to backboards, basket litters, or other appropriate devices, or rescue-dragged on their mattresses. **Note:** Rescue-drag is to be used as a last resort only. These patients/ residents are clinically unable to be moved in a seated position, and may require equipment ranging from oxygen to mechanical ventilators, cardiac monitors, or other biomedical devices to accompany them during movement. They may require clinical observation. These patients/ residents may require on to two staff members (one clinical, one non-clinical) for movement, with additional staff as needed to manage life support equipment. Ambulance transport is required and in special circumstances (e.g. severe flooding) helicopter transport may be needed. These individuals must be accompanied by a clinical provider appropriate to their condition (e.g. EMT, paramedic, clinical staff member).
 - b. Wheelchair (TAL-2)- those who are unable to walk due to physical and/or medical condition. They are stable, without any likelihood of resulting harm or impairment from wheelchair transport or prolonged periods of sitting, and do not require attached medical equipment or medical gas other than oxygen or a maintenance intravenous infusion during their relocation or evacuation. These patients/residents will be

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identified with a wheelchair symbol when evaluated for evacuation. They can be safely managed by a single non-clinical staff member. They may be transported as a group in a wheelchair-appropriate vehicle (e.g. medical transport van or ambulette) with a single staff member or healthcare facility-designated person accompanying them.

- c. Ambulatory (TAL-3)- those who are able to walk without physical assistance, and without any likelihood of resulting harm or impairment. They can be transported as a larger group in a passenger vehicle (e.g., bus, transport van, or private auto) with a healthcare facility-designated person accompanying them.
2. The admitting provider will document the TAL level using the Evacuation Severity Codes on the Admission Information section in the Patient's Profile.
3. The case manager will update the TAL if the patient's mobility status changes during the episode of service.
4. The DPS and Supervisors will be responsible to ensure that all home care patients have documented TALs in their electronic health record.