



Resolution 2005-02

## Diversion and Transfer of Patient Care

**W**hereas, the American Hospital Association is an organization representing the nation's hospitals and is currently addressing hospital capacity, overcrowding of emergency departments (EDs), the challenge of admitted patient flow into inpatient beds, and diversion of ambulances as major public policy issues; and

**Whereas**, the diversion of ambulances away from EDs does not target the root causes of hospital capacity and ED overcrowding issues; and

**Whereas**, emergency medical services ambulances are waiting unacceptably long periods, often hours, to return to service to answer 9-1-1 calls in their communities because of delays in the transfer of patient care from emergency medical services providers to hospital staff; and

**Whereas**, there are Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act (EMTALA) requirements that dictate that once the patient is on hospital property, the responsibility for patient care rests with the hospital; and

**N**ow, **therefore be it resolved that** the National Association of State Emergency Medical Services Officials (NASEMSO) requests the American Hospital Association to assign representatives to meet with representatives of NASEMSO and its organization of State EMS medical directors to work collaboratively to eliminate the practice of ambulance diversion and assure timely transfer of patient care so that EMS units can return to service expeditiously.

Signed this 14<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2005.

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NASEMSD 2005-06 President

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Intended Distribution:

American Hospital Association  
Institute of Medicine

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**National Association of State Emergency Medical Services Officials**

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