



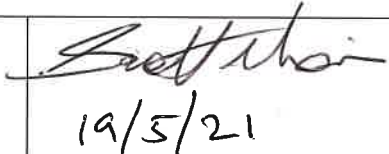
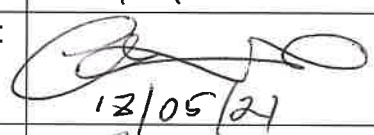
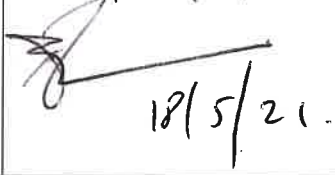
# NISTAR

Northern Ireland Specialist Transport & Retrieval



<b>Document Title</b>	<b>Completing NISTAR transfers in adverse weather</b>
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No	Operating Procedure	Key Points
1	Introduction	NISTAR are a regional 24 / 7 service that complete critical care / elective transfers for adults, paediatrics and neonates. On occasion, teams may be required to complete transfers in inclement weather conditions. This SOP is to ensure that all transfers are completed safely.
2	Objective	The safety of both the NISTAR teams and the patients we transfer is paramount. This SOP is to ensure that transfers are completed safely when there is inclement weather.
3	Scope	The SOP will predominantly be used by the Ambulance Care Attendants but will apply to all NISTAR staff.
4	Procedure	<p>The ACA team will be responsible for checking weather and traffic reports at the commencement of each shift and reporting any concerns to the NISTAR teams. Where inclement weather is forecast, the team should ensure that they have appropriate clothing with them.</p> <p>Once a transfer has been requested, the ACA team should check weather and traffic reports for the location of the referring hospital, receiving hospital and planned route.</p> <p>If inclement weather is forecast, the team should conduct a risk assessment and consider the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nature of inclement weather</li> <li>• Duration of inclement weather</li> <li>• Potential alternative route to avoid inclement weather</li> <li>• Type of transfer e.g. emergency / elective</li> <li>• Postpone transfer until inclement weather has passed</li> </ul> <p>If the team experience unforecast inclement weather while on a transfer that compromises patient / team safety. The following should be considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Return to base / hospital</li> <li>• An alternative route</li> <li>• Continuing but at a slower speed</li> <li>• Diverting to a place of safety e.g. nearest hospital</li> <li>• Request PSNI support via NIAS EAC</li> </ul> <p>If the team have arrived at a referring hospital and experience unforecast inclement weather that would prevent the transfer being completed safely, the following should be considered:</p>



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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An alternative route</li> <li>• Postpone transfer until the inclement weather has passed</li> </ul> <p>Where postponing a transfer significantly lengthens the NISTAR teams shift, the following should be considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overnight stay in on call hospital accommodation</li> <li>• Overnight stay in local hotel.</li> </ul> <p>Where overnight accommodation is required, the team should contact the on call co-ordinator / Service Manager / Lead Nurse.</p>
5	Regulation/ Guidelines/references	The Highway Code (2020)
6	Related documents	Travel and Expenses Handbook for Claimants and Approvers (2019)
7	Abbreviations	ACA – Ambulance Care Attendant PSNI – Police Service Northern Ireland NIAS – Northern Ireland Ambulance Service EAC – Emergency Ambulance Control
8	Revision history	For review 31/05/2023