






NISTAR

Northern Ireland Specialist Transport & Retrieval



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Approval signatures

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No	Operating Procedure	Key Points
1	Introduction	<p>NISTAR currently operate with four clinical teams who have access to three NISTAR ambulances and one spare ambulance. On Wednesday 1st February a fifth NISTAR ambulance will be added to the fleet funded by the Children’s Heartbeat Trust, referred to as the Children’s Ambulance (call sign NISTAR 5). This ambulance will be fitted with additional lighting and equipment and a space themed interior to create a more relaxing environment for the patient. The primary role of the ambulance is to facilitate cardiac transfers between Belfast and Dublin.</p>
2	Objective	<p>To provide the NISTAR call handlers, NISTAR clinical teams, NIAS ACAs, NIAS vehicle cleaning team and NIAS Emergency Ambulance Control with guidance on the new Children’s Ambulance.</p>
3	Scope	<p>The SOP applies to all NISTAR staff, ACAs, vehicle cleaning team and NIAS Emergency Ambulance Control.</p>
4	Procedure	<p>This Children’s Ambulance should be primarily used for -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Neonatal, Paediatric and Nurse Led cardiac transfers to and from Dublin <p>If no cardiac transfers are booked for the day or the wheelchair locking system is required the Children’s Ambulance can be used for any Paediatric or Nurse Led transfer.</p> <p><u>NISTAR ACAs</u></p> <p>Each morning the ACAs should VDI the Children’s Ambulance as a fourth vehicle. If a call is received for the Children’s Ambulance the ACA should book off their NISTAR ambulance and book onto the Children’s Ambulance, call sign NISTAR 5.</p> <p>If the Neonatal, Paediatric or Nurse Led team are out on a NISTAR ambulance and accept a cardiac referral to or from Dublin they can continue the transfer in the NISTAR ambulance. However, if they are within the Greater Belfast area they should return to base and use the Children’s Ambulance.</p>



		<p><u>NISTAR Call Handling</u></p> <p>When the NISTAR call handler is booking a transfer with NIAS Emergency Ambulance Control they should specify that the Children’s Ambulance is required.</p> <p><u>NIAS Emergency Medical Dispatcher</u></p> <p>When the NIAS Emergency Medical Dispatcher is completing the call notes they should highlight that the Children’s Ambulance (NISTAR 5) is required.</p> <p><u>NIAS Controller</u></p> <p>The NIAS Controller should inform the crew by tannoy that the Children’s Ambulance (NISTAR 5) is required and allocate the call once the Children’s Ambulance (NISTAR 5) has been booked on the system.</p> <p><u>NIAS Vehicle Cleaning Team</u></p> <p>The internal livery should not be cleaned with any form of Actichlor solution or alcohol wipes. Please refer to manufacturer’s instructions.</p> <p>The children’s ambulance has the same layout and equipment as all the other NISTAR vehicles and can be used by any team if no other NISTAR ambulance is available. Please note that the Children’s Ambulance has only one ZX oxygen cylinder.</p>
5	Regulation/ Guidelines/references	N/A
6	Related documents	NIAS Emergency Ambulance Control NISTAR SOPs
7	Abbreviations	NISTAR – Northern Ireland Specialist Transport and Retrieval NIAS – Northern Ireland Ambulance Service ACA – Ambulance Care Attendant VDI – Vehicle Daily Inspection
8	Revision history	For review 1 st February 2024