

Patient Interfacility Transportation Requirements

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Sahara Hayes

Senate Sponsor:

LONG TITLE**General Description:**

This bill enacts provisions related to patient interfacility transportation.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- defines terms;
- requires a health care facility to allow a patient to use non-medical transportation to another health care facility under certain circumstances;
- requires a health care facility to provide a notice and assist in arranging the transportation;
- enacts provisions for admissions and billing for a receiving health care facility; and
- enacts liability protections for originating health care facilities and health care providers under certain circumstances.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

ENACTS:

26B-2-244, Utah Code Annotated 1953

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. Section **26B-2-244** is enacted to read:

26B-2-244 . Non-medical transport -- Receiving health care facility requirements.

(1) As used in this section:

(a) "Ambulance transportation" means transportation provided by a person licensed under Title 53, Chapter 2d, Emergency Medical Services Act.

(b) "Health care provider" means:

(i) a physician licensed under Title 58, Chapter 67, Utah Medical Practice Act, or

- 31 Title 58, Chapter 68, Utah Osteopathic Medical Practice Act;
32 (ii) a physician assistant licensed under Title 58, Chapter 70a, Utah Physician
33 Assistant Act; or
34 (iii) an advanced practice registered nurse licensed under Subsection
35 58-31b-301(2)(e).
36 (c) "Interfacility transfer" means the transferring of a patient between an originating
37 facility and a receiving facility.
38 (d)(i) "Non-medical transportation" means transportation that does not:
39 (A) provide medical services during transport; or
40 (B) employ or provide trained medical personnel for transporting an individual.
41 (ii) "Non-medical transportation" includes transportation provided by a family
42 member or public transit.
43 (e) "Originating facility" means a health care facility where a patient is currently
44 admitted or being treated.
45 (f) "Receiving facility" means a health care facility that will receive a patient from an
46 originating facility.
47 (2) A health care facility shall allow a patient to use non-medical transportation for an
48 interfacility transfer if:
49 (a) the patient is not subject to:
50 (i) temporary commitment described in Section 26B-5-331; or
51 (ii) involuntary commitment described in Section 26B-5-332;
52 (b) the patient's health care provider at the originating facility determines that:
53 (i) the patient is not in a condition described in Section 53-2d-405; and
54 (ii) the patient's current medical and mental condition does not require ambulance
55 transportation to the receiving facility; and
56 (c) the transfer would not violate 42 U.S.C. Sec. 1395dd.
57 (3) A patient may request that a health care facility or health care provider determine
58 whether the patient is eligible to use non-medical transportation under Subsection (2).
59 (4) For a patient eligible to use non-medical transportation for an interfacility transfer, the
60 health care facility shall provide a written notice that states:
61 (a) the patient's medical and mental condition does not meet medical necessity for
62 ambulance transportation;
63 (b) insurance may elect not to cover the charges for ambulance transportation;
64 (c) the patient may be responsible for the cost of ambulance transportation; and

65 (d) the current transportation rate and mileage rate established under Section 53-2d-503.

66 (5) If a patient uses non-medical transportation as described in this section and arrives at the
67 receiving facility within two hours of being discharged by the originating facility, the
68 receiving facility may not:

69 (a) charge the patient or the patient's insurance or other health benefit plan for admission
70 or readmission services unless medical staff have reason to believe the patient's
71 medical condition has changed from when the originating facility discharged the
72 patient to the time of the patient's arrival at the receiving facility; or

73 (b) assign the available bed that the patient was offered upon discharge from the
74 originating facility to an individual that is not the patient.

75 (6) An originating facility or health care provider is immune from civil action for acts or
76 omissions made when allowing a patient to use non-medical transportation if the
77 patient's medical or mental condition at the time the originating facility discharges the
78 patient did not require ambulance transportation to the receiving facility.

79 (7) Nothing in this section restricts a patient's ability to refuse health care services,
80 including any form of transportation.

81 **Section 2. Effective Date.**

82 This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.