



Children's Acute Transport Service



Standard Operating Guidance

CATS SAR Aeromedical Assistance

Document Control Information

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Document Version	Version 1.4	Replaces Version	1.3
First Introduced	July 2009	Routine Review Schedule	Every 2 years
Active Date	January 2018	Next Review	January 2020
Applicable to	All CATS staff		

Scope

This guideline covers the operational aspects of an aeromedical transfer by the Search and Rescue platform (Bristow Helicopters).

Planning

- 1) Two way: outbound and return transfers by helicopter.
- 2) One way: outbound or return leg by helicopter only.

The ETA of the helicopter to rendezvous with the CATS team at each end will determine the likely method.

Request

As per CATS consultant instructions fax and telephone the request to the ARCC.

Invoicing to: Children's Acute Transport Service, Finance Department, Great Ormond Street NHS Trust, London, WC1N 3JH.

Normal operations

- Do not approach the rear of any helicopter at any stage.
- CATS vehicle will position adjacent to the landing site, doors closed to avoid debris from downdraft and with blue lights flashing.
- Monitor the ground-air radio channel.
- Anticipate loading/unloading with rotors running.
- Check adequate clearance below rotor disk if the ground is sloping.

A positive indication from the aircrew must be received before approaching the aircraft.

- The CATS ambulance will position to facilitate loading/unloading at a point just clear of the rotor disc opposite the main door (R side of helicopter).
- Do not allow loose items to enter the rotor disc area.
- The Winchman will secure the CATS kit.
- The CATS team will apply seatbelts, headsets and await instructions.

Layout (Review training video)

- Aerosled/Clipdeck is centrally placed and secured by the winchman.
- Stretcher oxygen will be conserved for loading/unloading.
- Communication using the headsets needs to be concise and clear.
- For take-off, landing and in an emergency all headsets are 'conferenced' together. At other times the medical team and winchman may be on a private circuit.

Abnormal operations

Is classified as an unplanned diversion/landing:

- Co-ordination will be via ARCC and the CATS office.
- The CATS team must have a situational awareness of the endurance of inotropes / nitric / oxygen supplies as well as a clear understanding of the needs of the child so that a contingency can be established swiftly.

Notes: See also

Bristow familiarisation video

CATS aero medical transfer SOP

CATS aero medical Nitric Oxide SOP

CATS aero medical algorithm SOP

CATS SOPS 001 presentation