

CADTH Reference List

# Non-Medical Patient Transportation

July 2021

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## Key Messages

- No literature was identified regarding the clinical effectiveness of using non-medical transportation services for patients requiring non-urgent transportation.
- No literature was identified regarding the cost-effectiveness of using non-medical transportation services for patients requiring non-urgent transportation.
- No evidence-based guidelines were identified regarding the use of non-medical transportation services for patients requiring non-urgent transportation.

## Research Questions

1. What is the clinical effectiveness of using non-medical transportation services for patients requiring non-urgent transportation?
2. What is the cost-effectiveness of using non-medical transportation services for patients requiring non-urgent transportation?
3. What are the evidence-based guidelines regarding the use of non-medical transportation services for patients requiring non-urgent transportation?

## Methods

### Literature Search Methods

A limited literature search was conducted by an information specialist on key resources including MEDLINE, the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews, the international HTA database, the websites of Canadian and major international health technology agencies, as well as a focused internet search. The search strategy comprised both controlled vocabulary, such as the National Library of Medicine's MeSH (Medical Subject Headings), and keywords. The main search concept was non-medical or non-emergency transportation. No filters were applied to limit the retrieval by study type. Comments, newspaper articles, editorials, and letters were excluded. Where possible, retrieval was limited to the human population. The search was also limited to English language documents published between January 1, 2016 and July 5, 2021. Internet links were provided, where available.

### Selection Criteria and Summary Methods

One reviewer screened literature search results (titles and abstracts) and selected publications according to the inclusion criteria presented in Table 1. Full texts of study publications were not reviewed. The Overall Summary of Findings was based on information available in the abstracts of selected publications. Open access full-text versions of evidence-based guidelines were reviewed when abstracts were not available, and relevant recommendations were summarized.

**Table 1: Selection Criteria**

Criteria	Description
<b>Population</b>	Patients with any condition requiring non-urgent transportation to any medical facility
<b>Intervention</b>	Non-medical transportation services (also referred to as non-clinical transportation or stretcher services)
<b>Comparator</b>	Q1, Q2: Ambulance services, community transfer services Q3: Not applicable
<b>Outcomes</b>	Q1: Clinical effectiveness (e.g., patient wellness, positive health outcomes, quality of patient care, quality of life, patient safety, adverse events) Q2: Cost-effectiveness (e.g., cost-benefit outcomes, incremental costs, associated care costs) Q3: Recommendations regarding the best practice for non-medical transportation service use; recommendations regarding non-medical transportation service implementation
<b>Study designs</b>	Health technology assessments, systematic reviews, randomized controlled trials, non-randomized studies, economic evaluations, evidence-based guidelines

## Results

No health technology assessments, systematic reviews, randomized controlled trials, non-randomized studies, economic evaluations, or evidence-based guidelines were identified regarding the use of non-medical transportation services for patients requiring non-urgent transportation.

References of potential interest that did not meet the inclusion criteria are provided in Appendix 1.

## Overall Summary of Findings

No relevant literature was found regarding the clinical effectiveness, cost-effectiveness, or evidence-based guidelines of using non-medical transportation services for patients requiring non-urgent transportation; therefore, no summary can be provided.

## References

### Health Technology Assessments

No literature identified.

### Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses

No literature identified.

### Randomized Controlled Trials

No literature identified.

### Non-Randomized Studies

No literature identified.

### Economic Evaluations

No literature identified.

### Guidelines and Recommendations

No literature identified.

## Appendix 1: References of Potential Interest

### Systematic Reviews

#### *Intervention Not Specified*

1. Solomon EM, Wing H, Steiner JF, Gottlieb LM. Impact of transportation interventions on health care outcomes: a systematic review. *Med Care*. 2020 04;58(4):384-391. [PubMed](#)

### Rapid Review

2. Mattison CA, Wilson MG. Rapid synthesis enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of non-urgent transportation models Hamilton (ON): McMaster Health Forum; 2019: <https://www.mcmasterforum.org/docs/default-source/product-documents/rapid-responses/enhancing-the-efficiency-and-effectiveness-of-non-urgent-transportation-models.pdf>. Accessed 2021 Jul 12.

### Additional References

3. Business case submission: Permanent Non-Urgent Patient Transfer Service. Espanola (ON): Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board; 2019: [https://www.msdsb.net/images/EMS/reports/2019/PTS\\_Business\\_Case.pdf](https://www.msdsb.net/images/EMS/reports/2019/PTS_Business_Case.pdf). Accessed 2021 Jul 12.
4. Hazlett-Norman E, O'Shea M, Warder G. Addressing non-emergency medical transportation needs in Androscoggin County. (*Community Engaged Research Reports 51*). Lewiston (ME): Bates College SCARAB; 2019: [https://scarab.bates.edu/community\\_engaged\\_research/51/](https://scarab.bates.edu/community_engaged_research/51/). Accessed 2021 Jul 12.
5. Great Blue. NEMT Impact Study for MTAC: report of findings. (*Great Blue survey commissioned by MTAC*). Washington DC: Medical Transportation Access Coalition (MTAC); 2018: <https://mtaccoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Survey-Report.pdf>. Accessed 2021 Jul 12.